

Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

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The Official Newsletter of the Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

April 2024

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Hello Spring!

Spring has (mostly) sprung and the museum has been busy starting new projects and planning out events for the summer!

We are wrapping up our winter/spring lecture series with a new speaker on April 20th. Steven Paulsen, owner of Native Roots, will provide an overview of native plants to incorporate into your landscapes and how to care for them.

The rest of April and May will be spent giving tours to various school groups and of course some spring cleaning.

We plan to be a venue for two Art & Soul entries this year and are excited to announce the return of our Then and Now Quilt Show, June 7th through July 20th!

Last year we displayed the museum’s collection of antique quilts along with quilts loaned by Community Quilts and the Desert Sage Quilters Guild.

This year we want to see your family’s quilts! New and old quilts are welcome from antique and vintage to new and modern. We want to highlight our community’s creativity and talent through the years! Loan forms are now available on our website if you are interested in having your quilt displayed.

Plans are also underway for a Union School Reunion and open house to celebrate the Union School’s 110th anniversary in July. Construction has also begun on a new addition to the museum grounds, more info on that project coming soon.

Item Highlight

Twin Falls Motor Transit Token



Clinton Watson
1909-1970



J. "Ted" Davis
1895-1974



Company letterhead and
early bus photo from Ted
Davis' personal scrapbooks
Courtesy of Twin Falls
Public Library

Twin Falls Motor
Transit token in the
museum's collection



Last month we received a call requesting information on the Twin Falls Motor Transit. The caller had discovered a small token in a collection of coins and was curious of the history behind it. While researching we discovered that the same question had been asked 20 years ago.

On March 20, 2004, a *Twin Falls Times News* article written by Virginia Hutchins described on a mystery token found by Wayne Anderson while metal detecting. The token was slightly smaller than a dime with "Twin Falls Motor-Transit" printed on one side and "Good for one fare" on the other. The article speculated that the token could have been used for the short-lived electric railway that ran in downtown Twin Falls from 1914 to 1916.

By the March 23rd issue the true answer had been discovered. Several readers had contacted the newspaper with memories of the Twin Falls Motor Transit bus system from the 1940's.

During World War II strict gas and rubber rationing led to a need for public transport. J. "Ted" Davis seized the opportunity to fill this need in Twin Falls. In 1941, he applied for and was authorized to operate a new city bus line for the next 20 years. The company started with a 17-passenger bus with routes running to all major residential districts within the city. By 1942, Davis announced the purchase of a second bus and in 1945 a bus line running from Hansen to Buhl was added.

But the end of the war brought a sharp decline in public transit demand. In February 1950, Davis requested the 20-year franchise be terminated. The Twin Falls city bus line had been operating at a significant loss for the past two years. Davis continued to run the bus line from Hansen to Buhl but ceased the route within the city. In May of the same year, Clinton Watson offered to revive the route with new buses. But despite Watson's effort the line again failed to be profitable, and that summer was the last time the bus system ran through the city of Twin Falls. Davis went on to serve on the Twin Falls city council from 1950 to 1960 and served two years as the mayor of Twin Falls. Clinton Watson was the mayor of Hazelton from 1961-67 with many improvements to the city being made during his term.

Donations

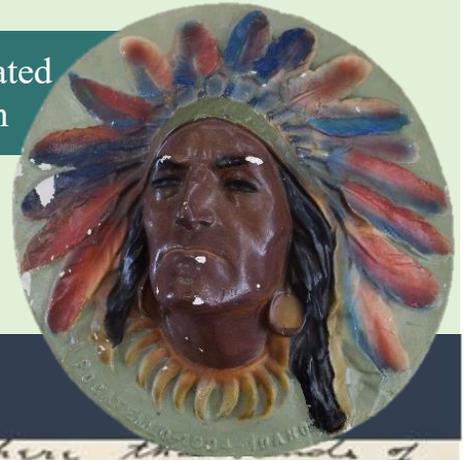
1940 Twin Falls High School yearbook donated by Klamath County Museum



Vintage toys, books, and other items donated by L.J. Smith



Wall hanging donated by Robert Irwin



Postcards donated by Bonner County History



Want to Donate?

Give us a call or stop by the museum if you are interested in donating an item with county history. Keep in mind we only accept permanent

Fun Fact!

In 1634, the introduction of tulips in Holland led to a span of four years known as "Tulip mania" when the flower's popularity led to an extreme increase in its value. According to the Amsterdam Tulip Museum, the most expensive tulip sold during this time was a Semper Augustus. A contract for one bulb sold for over three times the yearly income of most merchants at that time.

Then and Now QUILT SHOW JUNE 7-JULY 20

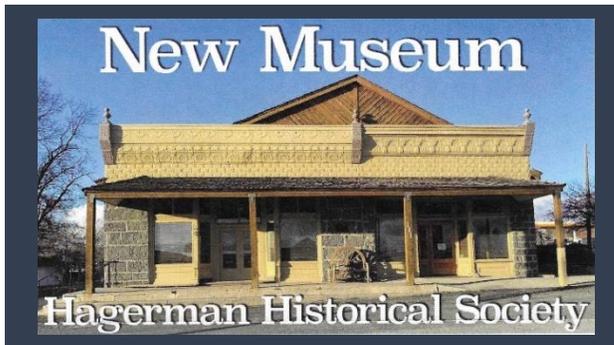
Time to pull out your favorite quilts from that dusty trunk in the attic! We are looking for old and new quilts with local history to display. Temporary loan forms are now available on our website www.twinfallsmuseum.org

April Lecture!

April 20th 1:00pm

Native Plants That Work!

Steven Paulsen of Native Roots will give an overview of native plants you can count on in your landscapes. Bring your landscape challenges and mystery plant pictures and Steven will do his best to help identify your plants!



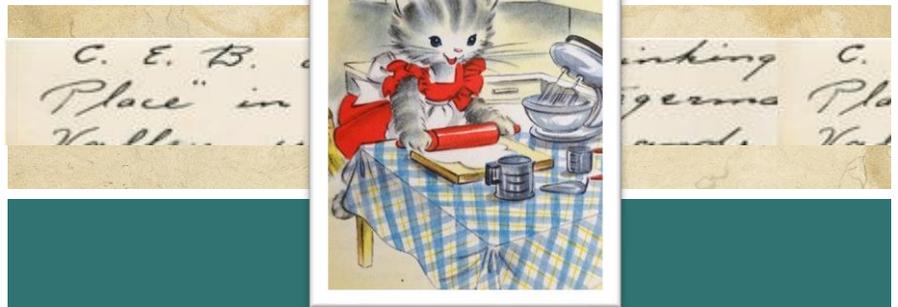
Hagerman Museum Grand Opening!
Saturday April 13th 11:00-4:00

Hagerman Valley Historical Society is pleased to invite you to the opening of our new museum location. Explore our exhibits, meet Society members, and learn about the rich history of the Hagerman Valley. Free admission all day!

The Recipe's History

Though the exact origins are debated, it is believed that the earliest recipes for potato salad came from German immigrants. Today there are countless variations with each family adding their own twist to the classic dish.

The sweet and creamy cooked dressing in this recipe lends it an old-fashioned goodness.



Patio Potato Salad

Taste of Home

1/3 cup sugar 1 tbsp cornstarch
1 to 1 1/2 tsp ground mustard 1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp celery seed 1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup vinegar 1 egg, beaten
1/4 cup butter or margarine, cubed
1/4 cup chopped onion 1/4 cup mayonnaise
7 medium red potatoes, cubed & cooked
3 hard cooked eggs, chopped
Lettuce leaves and paprika, optional

In a saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch, mustard, salt, and celery seed. Stir in milk, vinegar, and egg until smooth. Add butter. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 mins or until thickened and bubbly. Cool. Stir in onion and mayo. In a large bowl, combine potatoes and hard cooked eggs. Add dressing and toss gently to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour. If desired, serve in a lettuce-lined bowl and sprinkle with paprika. Yields 8-10 servings.

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208-736-4675 www.twinfallsmuseum.org

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