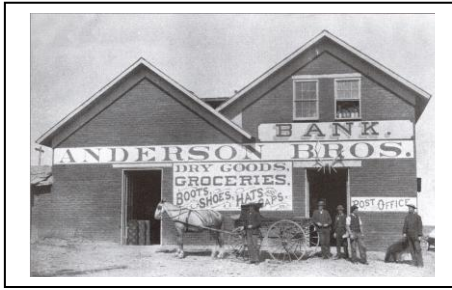


# Newsletter for Bonneville County Centennial 2011



Idaho Falls, Idaho

January 2011



## The Purpose of the Bonneville County Centennial celebration.....



By Dave Radford

Greetings to all local history buffs. Come join us in celebrating a one-hundred year birthday party all year long for Bonneville County.

These past several years a core committee has been working on different aspects of this birthday for our great county. As you know, the Bonneville County Heritage Association has sponsored various events associated with the cities and the key historical aspects of our county this past year. For example, programs about the stage coach and railroad, histories of Ammon, Iona, Idaho Falls and other communities, our canal and irrigation systems, and the importance of agriculture to eastern Idaho

The public are welcome and encouraged to participate. All these events will be free and memorable occasions for all.

As part of our outreach effort as a Bonneville County Heritage Association, we solicit your input in helping to identify at least 100 key "treasures" here in Bonneville County. A future self-guided tour of these treasures will be fun for the whole family. One of the great legacies we can offer the

rising generation is a connection with Bonneville County's heritage.

It has been a privilege as a Bonneville County commissioner to witness the amazing volunteerism exhibited by so many people interested in preserving our history. These exciting events will lead up to our birthday celebration in November. Please stay tuned and feel invited to celebrate these wonderful occasions with us.

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## OPENING and GALA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

By Ann Rydalch  
Proclamation at the  
Courthouse February 7<sup>th</sup>



The year-long Bonneville County Centennial celebration will begin **Monday, February 7, 2011 at 7 p.m., in the Centennial Court Room of the Bonneville County Courthouse.** On February 7, 1911, Governor James H. Hawley signed a bill establishing Bonneville

### Schedule of first quarter programs:

Osgood and Memorial Drive	February 8
Backcountry Trails	February 24
Historical Novel for Schools	March 8
Taylor	March 24
Ririe area	April 12
Palisades Dam	April 28

County.

A Senate Concurrent Resolution will be presented by Senator Bart Davis and Representative Linden Bateman - a resolution from the Idaho Legislature, honoring Bonneville County as it begins its Centennial celebration. Idaho Falls Mayor Jared Fuhriman will present a proclamation signed by the Mayors of Ucon, Iona and Ammon. Bonneville County Judges will also be honored.

From February through October 2011, a series of community programs will be presented, showing the heritage of Bonneville County.

**BONNEVILLE COUNTY CENTENNIAL GALA CELEBRATION**

The final Bonneville County Centennial Gala celebration will be held **Nov. 10-12, 2011 in the Civic Auditorium.** Histories of the county's communities will be condensed and shown by video being produced by Paul Jenkins of Intermountain Films Company.

A variety of musical selections will be performed including the Bonneville County Centennial High School Choir being coordinated by Hillcrest High School Choir Director, Camille Blackburn. This choir will include students from Idaho Falls, Skyline, Bonneville and Hillcrest and their directors.

On the evening of **Nov. 11, 2011** (11/11/11), a special program honoring the military of Bonneville County will be presented with the Northwest Navy Band invited to perform.

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**Celebrating our Centennial**

**We Need Your Help!**

**By Gary Goodson**



Bonneville County will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday as a county in 2011. Many have been working hard for the past few years to develop

programs and activities to make our heritage come to life.

But there many aspects to our heritage – the people, our families, our schools, our communities, our governmental organizations, our businesses and farms, the many service and other organizations, our churches, our military, our traditions, our willingness to work together to accomplish great things, and much more.

We appeal to each group and every person to join with us in helping to celebrate our centennial. Recently we met with the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce where it was agreed that we would work with them in making the 2011 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration a celebration not only a celebration of the birth of our nation, but also a celebration of the county's centennial

We encourage each group to plan a way to celebrate the centennial in a way that serves you best. We can help advertize your event on our website, if that seems appropriate.

Also individuals who wish to help can contact us. We need volunteers to assist in some of the plans we have. We also welcome help in fundraising. We would like to have student representatives on our Board to better serve the needs of our youth.

**Contributions are encouraged!**

Those contributing, including sponsors contributing \$1,000 or more, will be recognized on our website and at centennial events. Checks should be make out to **Bonneville County-Centennial Fund** and sent to: **Bonneville County-Centennial Fund**, 1855 Carmel Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83402.

For questions or comments please feel free to contact me, at [wgarygo@yahoo.com](mailto:wgarygo@yahoo.com) or by phone at 208-419-3301.

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Newsletter Staff: Susan Mardis, Nancy Moir, Lisa Hansen, Mary Jane Fritzen



## Programs for February, March and April

By Mary Jane Fritzen

We live in *Beautiful Bonneville* County. Its history reflects its variety and strength. Resourceful citizens of our varied communities will share their stories and photos with all of us. Using this volunteer talent, we will present a series of history programs at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month, February through October, 2011. Those in February and March will usually be at the Museum's Education Center or nearby Methodist Church. In the warmer months we will be at the county fairgrounds' newly refurbished Jack Hamilton Building (2925 Rollandet). With the support of the County Commission and the Museum of Idaho we invite the public free of charge to the following programs:

For more information or to help, contact Mary Jane Fritzen (522-3185). See [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org). Programs will be recorded by Lavon Reed and donated to the MOI's Reading and Reference room They will later be available for purchase.

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## Osgood Community

By Joe Stewart

The community center of Osgood located at 35<sup>th</sup> West & 85<sup>th</sup> North has always been united by agricultural purposes. The people who grew up in Osgood feel a closeness one to another. Joe Stewart, Osgood's community historian, says that Osgood actually had four phases in its beginnings:

1. In 1904 Osgood's land had the sagebrush removed and became a 7000 acre dry-farming experiment (farming without irrigation). This project was known as "Idaho Falls Dry Farm Association".
2. In 1914 a plan was developed to provide an irrigation system for Osgood. This plan included bringing irrigation water from Wyoming, building a pump system and digging a gravity flow canal and ditch system to irrigate the Osgood land.
3. In 1916 the project was sold as an investment to Dr. Charles F Osgood a physician living in Ogden, Utah. He was killed a few months later and the project reverted back to the original owners. The name was changed to "Osgood Land and Livestock Company".
4. In 1920 The irrigation system was completed and the Osgood project was sold to the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. Osgood was increased to 12,000 acres under the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. Families leased 80 acre farms from Utah Idaho Sugar Company under a share crop lease agreement. Farmers were required to grow sugar beets under this agreement which were processed at the Lincoln sugar plant.

Osgood was a community where people felt they belonged, where neighbors helped one another, where lifelong friendships developed.

In recent years Osgood has expanded to include several surrounding communities, and some urban development has crept into the fondly-remembered community. You are invited to learn about the story of Osgood from Joe Stewart at the first of our 2011 Centennial Series. Jan Blickenstaff will also make a short presentation on the Idaho Falls historic George Brunt Building.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 2011: Joseph Stewart and Jan Blickenstaff at 7:00 p.m. in the Centennial Courtroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the County Courthouse.

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**Art Meets Adventure™ — Idaho's Backcountry Roads**

**By Lynna and Leland Howard**

Author Lynna Howard and image artist Leland Howard present a visual and auditory feast. The award-winning sister/brother team focuses on expeditions covered in their latest book, *Backcountry Roads, Idaho*. This presentation will highlight Idaho history as seen in historical sites in our state's backcountry.

Thursday, Feb. 24: *Bonneville Backcountry Roads* by Lynna Howard and Leland Howard, photographer; 7 p.m., University Place.

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**School Book: By Connie Otteson**



Although 4th graders study Idaho history, they seldom learned about the history of Idaho Falls. Something was missing. We decided to supply that need by writing and publishing a local history book written from the point of view of a real 9-year-old pioneer boy.

With the publication sponsorship of the D. V. and Jennie H. Groberg Family Trust, we formed a teacher committee headed by Todd Brown, which selected a prize-winning author, Connie Otteson, to write the book. We were pleased with her excellent book, filled with true stories and pictures. Deanna Hovey wrote a teacher's supplement. We knew if 4th graders enjoyed it, so would their parents. The book has won both state

and national awards in its category and is well-received in the classrooms. It is sold at the Museum of Idaho and local bookstores. For more information or to buy the book, *George Brunt, Young Pioneer of Eagle Rock*, contact Connie at [cotteson@cableone.net](mailto:cotteson@cableone.net).

Tuesday, March 8: *School Book for 4th Grade Local History* by Connie Otteson, author, and Todd Brown of District 91. 7 p.m., MOI Education Center.



**Taylor Taylor Taylor!**

**Doyle Arave**

What is Taylor?

Taylor Mountain, background for Bob Hoff's productive centennial farm?

The old community of Taylor with its bygone store and enduring cemetery, subjects for Doyle Arave's stories?

Joseph Taylor, the pioneer farmer, whose russet potatoes made news? Last year, Sons of Utah Pioneers Eagle Rock chapter marked his farm with a monument.

Today's Taylor with its locally supported community park, which Lynn Clapp helped to develop?

Owendale, former home of 25 Taylor Mountain families?

Eagle Rock pioneers, Sam Taylor and "Matt" Taylor, the bridge-builder?

Yes, *Taylor* is an important word in the history of Bonneville County.



Thursday, March 24: *Taylor Mountain and Taylor Communities* by Bob Hoff, Doyle Arave, Lynn Clapp and Lynn Blatter (Owendale), at the Methodist Church, just east of the Museum of Idaho.

**Ririe Area: By**

**Becky Freeman** The

City of Ririe is unique in that it is situated both in Bonneville County and in Jefferson County. The City was created in 1914 when the railroad came to the area but the area had been settled in the 1880's. Some of the earliest settlers in Bonneville County settled near Ririe. Orville Heath and George Buck settled near Willow Creek about 1875. The Smith Brothers settled in the Poplar area in 1878. Previous to the creation of the City of Ririe several small settlements existed in the area that is in Bonneville County. The Communities of Shelton, Poplar, and Antelope were the largest. Each settlement had a school, a store, and a church of some sort. These early small settlements provided strength and support to early settlers as they conquered the wilderness, making the creation of a town a possibility.



Tuesday, April 12: *Ririe* by Becky Freeman; *Ririe Reservoir* by Ruby J. Sharp and Bruce Sharp; *Antelope* by Reed Moss; Education Center, Museum of Idaho. .

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**Palisades Dam**

**By John P. Martinson**

Palisades Dam was built in 1957 to quench eastern Idaho's thirst for water. Palisades stands as a giant among Reclamation projects. An



earth-fill dam on the Snake River in Bonneville County, it provides irrigation water, flood control, electricity and recreation to the Upper Snake Region of Idaho. Mr. Martinson will provide a historic glimpse of the dam and its part in the network of Bureau of Reclamation dams and irrigation systems in southeast Idaho. Delbert Winterfield of Swan Valley will tell of his experiences with Palisades Dam.

Thursday, April 28: *Palisades Dam* by John P. Martinson and Delbert Winterfield; Jack Hamilton building, county fairgrounds.



**Bonneville County Heritage Board**

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Mary Jane Fritzen</b>    | <b>Joe Stewart</b>       |
| <b>Gary Goodson</b>         | <b>Davidjohn Stosich</b> |
| <b>Nancy Moir</b>           | <b>Jerry Johnson</b>     |
| <b>Janet Jensen Fullmer</b> | <b>Jim Bennett</b>       |
| <b>Ann Rydalch</b>          | <b>Dane Watkins</b>      |
| <b>Dave Radford</b>         | <b>Bill Rigby</b>        |
| <b>Greg Stoddard</b>        | <b>Reuel Smith</b>       |
| <b>Susan Mardis</b>         |                          |

**Volunteers needed**

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**Remember the Winter of 1949?** 1949 was a year to remember for its extreme snow.

In January a huge amount of snow fell and winds were very strong. This weather changed the lives of people in **Osgood** for about one month. Winds drifted snow from the fields into the roads. With a D-9 Caterpillar tractor pushing the snow onto the edge of the roads, snow banks become so high that a person walking on the snow could touch the telephone wires. The tractor lost one of its tracks and become buried in the drifts. This loss created a worse problem because there was no tractor to plow the roads. The wind continued to blow, making the drifts even higher.

School was closed for lack of transportation; people hoped that the snow storms would let up. After two weeks of storms, Osgood folks decided to take action to get the community back in operation. They used horse-drawn bobsleds to transport the kids to school. Mail for Osgood that was piled up in Idaho Falls was put in large canvas bags aboard an airplane; these mail bags were pushed from the plane down into a field east of the Osgood community center. A plane with skis was landed in a field south of the Osgood center

as an ambulance for a pregnant woman who was ill. Water was delivered in milk cans by bobsleds for people whose water lines were frozen. Milk from the several dairy farms was skimmed and the cream saved in milk cans. The milk was dumped into the watering troughs for the cattle to drink.

Roads were built from the Osgood community center through the fields to the main highway that had been opened to Idaho Falls. Eventually a Snow Rotary was used to remove deep cuts through the Osgood road snow drifts to rescue the snow plow tractor and open the roads.

**by Joe Stewart**

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ee the Bonneville County History Exhibit at the Museum of Idaho.

Let us know what you are doing to celebrate the centennial.

**Find us at:** [www.bonnevilleheritage.org](http://www.bonnevilleheritage.org)