



PASS IN REVIEW

“Shedding Light On Idaho’s Military History”

1st Quarter

March 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members. I'd like to bring you up-to-date on a few things that the Museum is involved in.

Gowen Field Memorial:

The ground-breaking ceremony for the Gowen Field Memorial is scheduled for Friday, May 23, 2008, at a time to be announced. Major General Lafrenz' staff is working with Governor Otter's staff to coordinate his participation in the ceremony.

The memorial will pay tribute to all Idahoans from all branches of service who have served our country.

IMHS members are cordially invited to attend this event. The memorial site is located in the northeast corner of the Farman Street and Guard Street intersection directly east of the IDNG headquarters building. For those of you who are familiar with Gowen Field, it will stand where the ARNG's Medical Clinic used to be. More information will be e-mailed as it becomes available.

IMHS Building Information:

The IMHS Board of Governors is working with Mr. John Norris, Legislative Assistant/Executive Officer to MG Lafrenz, to plan and design a new building for the IMHS Museum. A long range plan identifies the need for additional exhibit and storage space to accommodate current artifacts and future acquisitions. The current Museum building will be retained; however, it is not easily expandable.

The Army Guard Facility Engineer's Office will be designing a 40,000 square foot, hanger-type building that will be eventually located directly north of our current building. This will provide adequate space to develop diorama-based exhibits that are more interactive, and more closely follow the Army Museum System's guidelines for exhibits.

Mr. Norris wants to submit the plan for MG Lafrenz' approval, and have the proposal ready to brief the Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee (JFAC) in October. This is a significant step forward in the maturity of the Society and Museum. We will keep you posted on the development of this exciting project.

Memorial Day Ceremony, Idaho State Veterans Cemetery:

I would also like to extend an invitation to all of you to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery on Monday, May 26, 2008. The IMHS and the Idaho Civil War Volunteers will be manning a composite artillery saluting battery to fire the 21-gun salute just prior to raising the national colors to full staff at high noon.

The battery consists of two Civil War Napoleon Cannons and two WWII

75mm Pack Howitzers. This will be the third year that the battery has participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony. Please join us in honoring our fallen Veterans.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all your efforts on behalf of the Society and Museum. They are greatly appreciated!

-Rick Johnson

BOARD WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER



Jeff Packer

As we announced in a recent membership e-mail, Board Member **Ian Spurgeon** is moving out of country and is thus no longer able to serve on the Board of Directors. On behalf of the Board, *thank you Ian* for all of your hard work on behalf of the IMHS and *especially* for your efforts as the IMHS Public Affairs Officer. The Board is pleased to announce that **Jeffery Packer** has been selected to complete Ian's term on the Board which runs through October 2008. Jeff brings to the Board a great deal of knowledge and enthusiasm and we look forward to working with him. ☆

Inside This Issue – Highlights include:

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CURATOR'S CORNER

So far it's been a busy 2008! Our most recent event, National Medal of Honor Day, was a success in that the Museum played an important role in raising awareness in our community about this important day.

Our own **Gayle Alvarez** was on hand to discuss Medal of Honor history and research with our visitors of which there were plenty. We were most fortunate to have Col Bernard "Bernie" Fisher present to sign books and talk with visitors.



Col. Fisher autographs one of his books for Chief Robert Bailey

Despite the event being on a work day, it was well attended. A nice benefit to this day was that it generated some publicity for the Museum which always helps.

Our next big event is the Armed Forces Day open house on Saturday 17 May. This looks to be one of our biggest open houses yet with static displays from the Idaho Army and Air National Guard, the Marine Corps Reserve and veterans groups. There will also be living history encampments from the Idaho Civil War volunteers and the World War Two reenactors with demonstrations.

This should be a big fun event but with this size also comes a big need for volunteer help. Due to volunteers traveling etc., at this time, we will need docents as well as people to do some basic set up on the day of the event. Additionally, we will need help in our gift shop.

Events like this are a good opportunity for the Museum to raise funds through gift shop sales. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me at 272-4841. *-Gary Keith*

NEW MEMBERS

Special Welcome to:

- ★ **Jerome J.C. Beau**
(Upgraded to Lifetime)
- ★ **CPT Corey D. Dahlquist**
- ★ **SGM Steven E. Woodall**

The Board of Directors has awarded each of Idaho's living Medal of Honor Recipients an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Society in recognition and appreciation for their service to our country.

Please extend a special welcome to:

- ★ **Lieut. Vernon J. Baker**
- ★ **Col. Bernard F. Fisher**
- ★ **MAJ Ed W. Freeman**
- ★ **Capt. Arthur J. Jackson**
- ★ **Tech. Robert D. Maxwell**
- ★ **Lieut. Thomas R. Norris**



Bill Miller presents Col. Bernard Fisher with his Lifetime Membership Certificate. ★

NEW MUSEUM WEB PAGE

We've bugged out! Effective immediately, the Museum's webpage has moved to <http://museum.mil.idaho.gov>. Be sure and update your computer's Bookmarks and Favorites listings! The previous site includes a link to our new home but only for a limited period of time. ★

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are highlights of upcoming events or activities that the IMHS will be involved in. More details will be posted on the webpage as more information becomes available.

 **11 April - Idaho State History Day. IMHS Team to judge Military History Senior Entries; College of Idaho.**

 **8-10 May - Eagle Island Days. Civil War Bivouac and Living History Display, Eagle Island State Park.**

 **16 May - Larry Gebert of Channel 7 will be doing his morning show, highlighting Armed Forces Day, at the Museum.**

 **17 May - Armed Forces Day Open House. WWII Mini-Tactical Battle, WWII & Civil War Bivouac Sites. Also Gowen Field Military Unit Static Displays.**

 **26 May - Memorial Day. Ceremonial Artillery Battery: 21 Gun Salute to Our Fallen Veterans, Idaho State Veterans' Cemetery.**

 **26 May - Thomas C. Neibaur Day BYU-Idaho, Rexburg.** As more information becomes available we will post it on our webpage. (Neibaur earned the Medal of Honor during WWI, the only individual from Idaho to do so.)

 **14 June - Eagle Fun Days. WWII Display with Jeep and Pack Howitzer with Classic Car show, Eagle, Idaho.**

 **4 July - Ceremonial Artillery Battery: 50 Gun Salute to the Union, Ann Morrison Park, Boise.**

 **18-20 July - D-Day Battle, Public WWII Battle Re-enactment and Allied/Axis Bivouacs and Living History Program, Fort Stevens State Park, Oregon. ★**

IDAHO HISTORY DAY 2008

History Day is a national program and is one of the premier academic enrichment programs in the nation. In Idaho, students in grades 4-12 work hard all year to develop research papers, exhibits, performances, documentation, and websites. They then enter them in a series of contests which will, if they win, lead them to the state competition. Winners of the state competition in each category and age group will qualify for the national contest in Washington D.C.

Your Idaho Military Historical Society supports this educational program by providing incentives and recognition to persons who participate in the Senior Exhibits Section of the program.

At the state contest, the senior exhibitors with military subjects are judged by members of the Idaho Military Historical Society and receive awards separate from the overall state awards. The exhibitors are judged on the significance of the selected subject, historical accuracy, clarity, written neatness and overall appearance.

The person or team judged to have presented the best exhibit pertaining to a military subject is recognized with a certificate, a one year membership in the IMHS, an Idaho National Guard History book, and a check for \$100. These awards encourage students to study and select topics which pertain to military history.

This year the State History Day Contest will be held on the 11th of April at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. The theme is "Conflict and Compromise in History." Over 600 contestants are expected to participate.

If you are interested in serving as a judge for the contest, call Joe Icenhower at (208) 345-0292. ☆

VOLUNTEER(S) OF THE QUARTER

Please meet



Charles Ake and Jeffery Packer

This quarter we have a two for one deal with the volunteer(s). I would like to recognize SFC Jeffery Packer and SFC Charlie Ake. The reason this is a two for one deal is that once SFC Packer started volunteering here with the Museum, SFC Ake started too. They are armor instructors with the 1-204th Armor Training Battalion at Gowen Field. Both have also joined the IMHS as Lifetime Members.

They first started volunteering in 2006 and have helped in many ways. With their experience in "big guns" they have routinely come over to the Museum to clean the pack howitzers after they have been used at events. This is a **big** task and they have generously spent a great deal of time just on this project alone.

As instructors, they also have a great deal of experience which has paid off for the Museum's events when we fire the howitzers. Their knowledge and safety have been passed on to the others making a better and safer event.

When it comes to event planning and execution, they have assisted with that as well and they bring a great deal of experience to the Museum. They step forward and help with many of the little details need for an event.

They are solid, reliable and dependable volunteers who continue

to make significant contributions to the Museum.

Thank you Charles and Jeff, we deeply appreciate all your hard work. You are our Volunteers of the Quarter!

☆☆☆☆

UPDATE ON AIRPLANE MODELS PROJECT

Thus far, 24 people have made donations to the project for a total of \$805--many thanks! Total expense is \$220.

These models will have an approximate 5 foot wingspan and will be marked to resemble the actual 190th combat aircraft that flew at Gowen Field. Almost big as life!



A **P-51** kit has been purchased, is under construction, and should be on display this summer.



An **F-86A** kit has also been purchased and may be on display this fall. An F-102A is being considered and is fairly likely.

Donations are tax deductible, welcome and appreciated. Special thanks to contributors: Mel Adamson, Jim Davies, Lee Downum, Jack Enterkine, Jim Frazier, Wally Glass, Pete Glick, V. Lynn Harpham, Dale Hendry, Alvie Johnson, Rich Johnson, Ken Keim, Mike McGrath, Bill Miller, Jack Myrann, Ron Nordling,

Don Pape, Chauncey Reese, J.L. Scott, Roger Smith, Cleve Spring, Jeff Sugai, Don Troyer and Fred Uranga.

For more information contact Bill Miller at (208) 853-8585. ★

ENDOWMENT UPDATE



Our Endowment balance currently stands at **\$39,022.00**

Recent

Endowment Donors include:

Charles Brandeberry
(in memory of Loa Brooks)

General James Brooks
(in memory of Loa Brooks)

Amy Gould
(in memory of Herman Reagan)

Stan Herzinger

(in memory of Dean Lamott)

William C. Miller

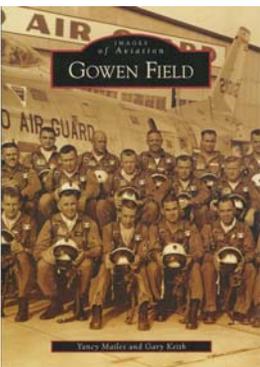
Don't forget, you can also make a credit card donation on on-line. Look for this link on the Museum's webpage:



Thank you for supporting The Idaho Military History Museum. ★

NEW ITEMS IN THE GIFT SHOP

We have two new books in our gift shop! One is a photo history of Mountain Home Air Force Base 1940s-2000; the second is a photo history of Gowen Field from 1940-1996.

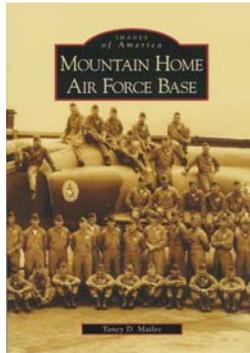


Images of Aviation; Gowen Field

The best part of all of this is, our own Gary

Keith and Yancy Mailes co-

authored the books and many of the photos from the Gowen Field book are from the IMHS Archives!



Images of America; Mountain Home Air Force Base

Both books are now in stock at the Museum and

our on-line gift shop. ★

LIBRARY NEWS

We just received a sizable book donation, roughly 104 books, containing a lot of histories and biographies! We also have a sizeable quantity of **duplicate** books which are now available for members to check out. The duplicates are on the bookshelf immediately to your left as you enter the library; right in front of the desk. Contact Joe Icenhower for more information.

RECENT DONATIONS

This list is by no means all-inclusive, but highlights some unique and interesting items that have recently been donated to the Museum.

Heidi Scott - A very large collection of photos from the WWII Farragut Naval Training Center.

Nell Slocumb - her father's uniforms from WWII when he was stationed at Gowen Field.

Janet Jackson - her Idaho Air National Guard uniforms and father's WWII USCG uniform enlisted blues.

Loren Call - 1950's era 101st uniforms and 1960's era 116th Engineers uniforms.

Judith Mazia - her father's WWII papers including his diary from serving at Gowen Field. ★

IN MEMORIAM



It is with deep regret that we inform you of the passing of one of our members, Arthur B. Cozine.

Not only was Art an active member, he also trained at Gowen Field in 1942 and became a very

proficient B-17 bombardier. He went on to fly 50 missions during WWII. His unit was the 347th Squadron, part of the 99th Bomb Group. The Group earned a Presidential Unit Citation; Art himself earned an Air Medal.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the Cozine family; Mr. Cozine will be greatly missed. In 1999, Art compiled his memoirs, *My Story, 1941-1945*. His family has graciously donated a copy to the Museum. ★

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEWSLETTERS?

Many of you have requested your newsletter be delivered electronically instead of through the mail. This will definitely get the newsletter to you faster than before and it will also allow you to receive it in color. (And yes, it will save the Society postage costs too; the Post Office just announced another increase scheduled to go into effect in May 2008.)

The newsletter will be in .pdf format. This reduces the size of the document by at least 2/3. If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can download it quickly and easily at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

The viewer is free and easy to install. There is also a link to it on the Museum webpage.

If you would prefer to have your newsletter e-mailed to you, please contact Gayle at galvarez@imd.idaho.gov and she will 'sign' you up. ★

SPEAKING OF E-MAIL....Many of you use **EarthLink** or have **Mindspring** accounts. If this is your situation, please enable your account to receive e-mail from us.

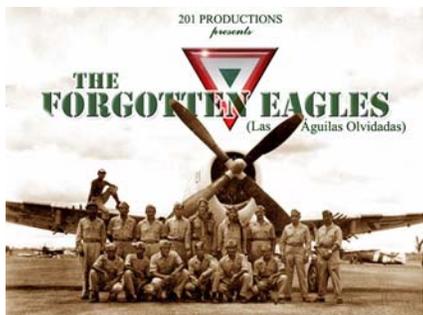
There were about 15 'bounced' e-mails on the last message Gayle sent out. If you don't enable your account, we can't communicate with you as EarthLink blocks any communications you don't pre-approve.

All e-mail addresses and other membership information is kept confidential, we do not provide or sell it to other organizations or individuals. ★

DID YOU KNOW... that during WWII, Mexican Air Force pilots trained at the Pocatello Army Air Base?

On August 6, 1944, the ground echelon of the 201st Mexican Fighter Squadron arrived at Pocatello.

The Squadron was there until November 27th when they departed by train to Greenville, Texas. One of the primary reasons for the transfer to Texas was that the weather was proving non-conducive to their flight training.¹



It is our understanding that an upcoming movie titled *The Forgotten Eagles* is about that squadron. ★

IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY

THE IMHS SALUTES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!



**LENORE COTTRELL JOHNSTON
WWII VETERAN**

Lenore Cottrell was born to Theodore and Rebecca Cottrell in Stockton, California on May 24, 1920. She grew up there and attended first through eighth grade at Jefferson Jr. High School and High School at Stockton High. She was active in athletics playing baseball, basketball and even roller-skating. She then enrolled in the College of the Pacific, now the University of Pacific, and received a scholarship in her Junior year. On December 7, 1941, she was a senior at the College.

Lenore became interested in history in high school thanks to her history teacher, Mr. Rogers. He would bring in war plans from WWI and the students would reenact them. They even went to the nearby armory and learned how to shoot! When she enrolled in the College of the Pacific, she had a keen interest in history and political science.

After Pearl Harbor, she volunteered with the Red Cross which was near her Stockton home. She joined the air watch and underwent three days of training in aircraft recognition near San Francisco. Lenore was only asked to work in that field for three days while in Stockton but she became involved in many other Red

Cross activities. She learned first aid and became very adept at immediate care, bandaging injuries and loading ambulances.

Simultaneously, she volunteered with the Red Cross and finished her senior year in college. She then became a teacher to a seventh grade class in Avenal, California, where she taught for a year and a half. Patriotism was very high and her class sold more war bonds than any other class in the school. For that, they earned a ride in a military jeep around the school!

While living in Avenal, Lenore was still active with the Red Cross and even learned how to send Morse code radio messages. Avenal was an oil community and she learned that it was number five on the list of Japanese targets.

While in Avenal, she renewed her volunteer efforts with the air watch and became a regular watcher. *"I volunteered as an air watch warden on Saturdays."* Her station was *"on top of a high hill in Kettleman Hills."* *"I would pray to God that no enemy planes would come by."* She added, *"Fortunately, nothing strange ever took place during my watch."*

In 1944, Lenore joined the WAVES, Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (US Navy Women's Reserve)², ...against her family's wishes. She trained at Hunter College in New York and learned how to be a storekeeper which strange as it sounds today, included financial matters.

From the time Lenore started her training at Hunter College, a key point was stressed again and again; don't tell anyone where a ship or a sailor might be headed! After the war, and even today, the phrase "Loose lips sink ships" remains in the American vocabulary.

She attended her advanced training at Milledgeville, Georgia. It was in Georgia that she first became aware of the extent of racial discrimination. She often *“used the wrong door...intentionally!”* She also made friends with some ladies she still keeps in touch with.



“From the rear, Co. 32, Milledgeville, Ga., March 1945”

Rumors about women in the military were rampant and cruel. One of the rumors we can mention here was that the WAVES were *“high class prostitutes for the officers.”* Her recruiting officer told them that the rumor was *“Russian propaganda.”* *“The rumor about women and officers was never printed, however, we were asked, and there were times if you didn’t accept a date you were asked this.”*

Whenever she went to the USO, the servicemen clustered around the civilian women but the WAVES did have their share of attention. Some of them went on dates, other visited and shared stories and listened to the service men. Many of the WWI veterans took a strong interest in the WAVES though!

There was a great deal of satisfaction in being in uniform. *“Every single one of us, we felt so proud, we just felt we were doing everything for our country. And we all looked good.”*³

Lenore was stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia and was assigned to the finance department. On paydays, escorted by a Marine in a Marine car, she paid the hospital patients...in cash!



On the right, ‘fellow’ WAVE Jean Sears, on the left Lenore Cottrell pose in front of the Tomb of the Unknown

She also recalls her captain making sure that they stayed active and friendly rivalry often resulted in game competition with the WACS, usually basketball and softball. *“The WACS were taller than we were; we never won when we played against them.”* She even found time to be on the Marching Drill Team for which she earned an award.

“This was a fun time and were we ever clean! The last one out of the dorm really checked. We always passed inspection!”



“Getting Ready for the Admiral” USN Barracks, Portsmouth VA, Lenore is on the viewers right holding the mop

Lenore served in the WAVES for 17 months, by now, the war was over and she was sent to Camp Shoemaker, California for discharge.

She then returned to Stockton and caught the eye of a young man by the name of Tom Johnston. They married in 1946. They had two children, Becky and Tom, Jr., and in 1960, the family moved to Idaho.



Lenore Cottrell Johnston, 2007

She may be retired but that’s an oxymoron! She is active in Meals on Wheels, the Canyon

County Organization on Aging, Friends of the Library, Friends of the Depot, TRIAD (Senior volunteers to police), the Canyon County Historical Society, the woman’s association in her church and 4H. She is also an active member of the IMHS which she joined in 1996 and her interest in political science manifests itself in her activities in the political process. She’s a very busy lady and noted, *“I’m very fortunate that my family lives between Caldwell and Middleton!”*

Editors Note: A very special thank you to Lenore Johnston for granting an interview for our story. ★

UPCOMING REUNIONS...



This just in... the 59th Annual Reunion of the 148th Field Artillery will be held at the AmeriTel Inn in Bend, Oregon, 11-14 September 2008.

Relatives, friends, members and former members of the 148th FA, anyone and everyone interested, are welcome to attend all or part of the reunion. Details are in the flyer on the next page.

In related news, a second photo collection of the 148th FA during WWII has recently come to light. The upcoming 3rd Edition of *The 148th Field Artillery Story, 1940 – 1946* will be postponed until the collection can be received, reviewed and incorporated into the book. Plans are to have the book ready in time for the reunion. ★



MOST WANTED

➤ **Information on the Northern Idaho Exploring Expedition**

NORTHERN IDAHO EXPLORING EXPEDITION
WILLIAM S. BRACKETT, Commander.



We know it took place sometime in 1899 or 1900 and that it had a commander by the name of William S. Brackett. It also had a scout by the name of William C. Bryan. Pictured above is it's apparently official letterhead but that is all the information we have. We contacted the state library and archives and they have no record of it.

- **Docents** – our shortage is critical
- **Gift Shop Manager** – our current manager needs help
- **Vietnam Era Artifacts**
- **Idaho Army National Guard, Marine or Navy related artifacts from any of the Global War on Terror operations**
- **Idaho Army National Guard Artifacts** ★



**-2008-
59th Annual Reunion
148th Field Artillery (WWII)**

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

September 18-21, 2008

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Ameritel
425 SW Bluff Drive
Bend, Oregon 97702
541-617-6111
Fax: 541-617-6112

Registration Fee: \$99.00

**REUNION
REGISTRATION:**

Marilyn & Bob Lochridge
61114 Hilmer Creek Dr.
Bend, OR 97702

541-322-0989

QUESTIONS:

Marilyn Lochridge
541-322-0989

-or-

Ellen Heath 208-639-8600
email: eh Heath@syringabank.com

2007 Reunion Income Statement available upon request from Marilyn .
Please send request to Ellen at 208-639-8600 or email her at
eh Heath@syringabank.com

Footnotes:

¹ Nelson, Lenard J and Shrontz Roberts-Wright, Bessie M, *The First Fifty Years*, 1993, pgs 146-149

² <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq57-6.htm>

³ <http://www.idahostatesman.com/387/story/207765.html>

*Produced By: Idaho Military Historical Society
Feature Stories, Editor & Production: Gayle Alvarez
Photos by Guen Johnson, Andrea Packer, Bill Miller and Gayle Alvarez unless otherwise noted.
Comments or article suggestions are welcome, contact us at 272-4841 or visit our new web site at:
<http://museum.mil.idaho.gov>*

JUST IN CASE Have you sent in your renewal for 2008? Don't forget, *donations are tax deductible*. When is your membership due for renewal? Check the date just above your name on the address label or contact Gayle.

	IDAHO MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 4040 W. Guard Street, Boise, Idaho 83705-5004 <i>Donation/Membership Application/Renewal Form</i>		
	<p>YES! Please enter my tax deductible membership application/renewal in the category checked below. I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount indicated.</p>		
INDIVIDUAL:			
\$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	General	\$ 375 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime
\$ 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate (Members Spouse)	\$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Student
ORGANIZATIONAL:			
\$ 500	<input type="checkbox"/>	Platinum	\$ 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+)
\$ 250	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold	\$ 100 <input type="checkbox"/> Silver
			\$ 50 <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze
OTHER: (<i>Endowment, Contributions, etc.</i>)			
\$ _____	FOR: _____		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____
Name: _____		Phone: _____	
Address: (<i>City, State, Zip</i>) _____			
E-Mail Address: _____			
Interests: (<i>Volunteering, Research, Displays, etc.</i>) _____			



Idaho Military Historical Society
4040 W. Guard
Boise, ID 83705-5004

Heroic Past...Proud Future