



# PASS IN REVIEW

*"Shedding Light On Idaho's Military History"*

3rd Quarter

September 2010

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The Board has scheduled the **Annual Membership Meeting for 20 October at 6:30 pm.**

At this meeting, members will be brought up to date on Society/Museum matters and elections will be held for three members of the Board of Directors to serve a three-year term.

Three current members of the Board, **Russ Trebby, Gary Donnelly and Gayle Alvarez** will be seeking re-election. Additional nominations can be made prior to the election.

Please mark your calendar and join us on **20 October at 6:30 pm.** It's been over a year since we all got together; we look forward to getting reacquainted. ★

## NEW MEMBERS


*Special Welcome to:*


- ★ **CMSgt Clyde 'Pete' Glick**
- ★ **Jason Shaw**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some of the events we currently have scheduled; more details will be posted on the webpage as invitations are confirmed and more information becomes available.

 **20 October** - Annual Membership Meeting. See above for all the details.

 **3 November** - Channel 7's **Larry Gebert** will be doing his morning show **LIVE** at the Museum. Be sure to tune in!



**6 November - Veterans Day Open House and Night Fire.** The Museum will once again and by popular demand hold its **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Night Fire** on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The Museum will be closed until 4:00 PM as many of our volunteers will be participating in the Veterans Parade downtown. The Museum gates will open then and the event will begin at 5:00 PM. That way all of the individual weapons demonstrations can be conducted during daylight; much easier to see! The event will run until all activities are concluded.

- General Admission: \$3.00
- Students w/School ID: \$1.00
- Children under 6: Free
- Veterans in Uniform: Free



Stadium blankets, folding lawn chairs and hearing protection for the younger spectators are recommended. Be sure and monitor our webpage for more information as it becomes available.



**6 December** – Channel 7's **Larry Gebert** will be doing his morning show **LIVE** at the Museum. Be sure to tune in! ★

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

The Museum had more visitors in July than ever before! Most of the United States and seven foreign countries are represented; this is a trend that we hope to see continue.

Two of our long term volunteers have taken on other projects and are no longer available to docent for us. **Sharon Murray** was the Friday docent but has moved to West Virginia to pursue her avid interest in Civil War history. **Jeff Renon** has been our Saturday docent since last January but due to a changing work schedule will not be able to docent any longer. We wish them the best in their future adventures and thank them for their generous donations of time. So, if you have four hours that you can spare to work at the Museum your help is needed. Call me at 272-4841.

The Museum has applied for a grant to analyze the photograph and archives collection. We should hear by 1 October if we will receive the grant. This will focus on how best to care for and use the collection in the future and it will allow us to move forward and create finding aids, put information online and allow more public access to this important resource.

The Museum has two new interns from the BSU History Department. **Valerie Ployhar** is a graduate student and will be focusing on registrar duties and general

## Inside This Issue

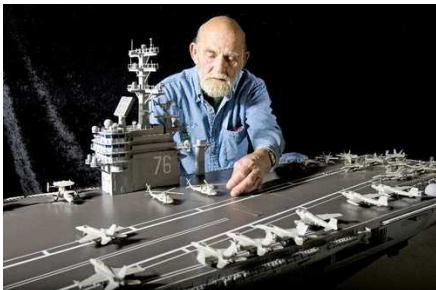
New Exhibit at Museum	Endowment Update
In Memoriam	Membership Reminder
Did You Know...	Memorial to Idaho's Fallen
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Idaho File Into History – DeVou 'Dee' Evan Humphreys	
Idaho's (Almost) U.S. Army Winter Training Camp	Just In Case

museum work. **John Merrill** is finishing his education degree and will be working on traveling educational trunks and age appropriate teaching aids.



I hope everyone remembers and plans to attend the 6th Annual Night Fire at the Museum on Saturday 6 November 2010. The Museum will open the gates at 4 PM and the firing demonstrations will begin at 4:30 PM and go until about 8 PM. Admission is only \$3.00 so bring your friends and neighbors for an explosively good time. *Ken Swanson ★*

**NEW EXHIBIT AT MUSEUM**



Ray Conley is a model-maker extraordinaire. He built the USS *Ronald Reagan* (in the photo), plus the USS *New Jersey*. They're both about 1/144th scale, 9 feet long and originally radio-controlled so he could sail them.

"They're beauties," he says. "They're gorgeous in the water. They look real." He made the two from scratch and donated them this spring to the Idaho Military History Museum at Gowen Field.

Conley made every one of the hundreds of parts - plus the to-scale details - by hand, including the helicopters on the USS *New Jersey*.

Although the two boats are now "decommissioned" - the radio-control apparatus has been removed - Conley built the USS *New Jersey* as seaworthy and sailed it in lakes.

Ray Conley's life changed the first time he saw a battleship. "I was on a trip with my 4-year-old grandson. We came over a knoll at Monterey, Calif., and saw all of Monterey Bay with the *New Jersey* swinging on her anchor. It had such beautiful lines, so long and sleek. I find a beauty in ships like that that I don't find anywhere else."



He didn't know it at the time, but that brief encounter in 1988 launched a project that consumed years of his life. Conley had already spent 10 years as an engineman in the Navy without seeing anything like the USS *New Jersey*, one of only four Iowa-class battleships ever built. Smitten, he decided that if he ever had the time, he'd build a model of it.

Not just any model, an 8.5-foot, radio-controlled model built from scratch - not a kit. He made every one of its hundreds of parts by hand. It took 12 years. Then he spent 3.5 years building a model of the USS *Ronald Reagan*, a nuclear aircraft carrier. This spring, he donated them both to the Idaho Military History Museum at Gowen Field.

"They really draw people in," museum director Ken Swanson said. "How many people from Idaho get to go to the ocean to see big ships like these? These give people an idea of how big they really are."

The models are built to scale. The *Reagan* model is a little over 9 feet long. The real USS *Reagan* is almost 1,100 feet long. You could put Bronco Stadium on it and have hundreds of feet left over. Conley, 73, has been building boats for almost as long as he can remember. The first, when he was 5, had a paddle wheel powered by a rubber band. He had an uncle who was in the Navy, and he "fell in love with the

uniform when he came to visit. I always knew I'd join the Navy." He was in the Navy from 1954 to 1964, serving in the Pacific on vessels from tank landing ships to a submarine. After the Navy, he worked as an artist and as a craps dealer in Nevada. He learned woodworking, carved wood, built furniture - skills that would serve him well when the time came to build his battleship.

The time came unexpectedly. In 1996, Conley was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He attributes his recovery from a disease often considered a death sentence to good care at a Veterans Administration hospital and "stubbornness. I still had things to do."

A long convalescence was the ideal time to begin building his dream ship. "It gave me something to do to keep my mind off of being sick. I'd go to sleep thinking about the boat and wake up thinking about the boat. I'd work constantly on it, then go three or four months without touching it. All of a sudden, 12 years had gone by."

Its guns originally were intended to fire using black powder, but the plan didn't make it past the test stage. "I designed everything myself, so it was highly likely it would blow up," he said with a trace of a grin.



The first "sea trial" was in a neighbor's pool. When the mini-*New Jersey* was finished, it graduated from local ponds to lakes in Oregon and California.

"It's just like a real boat," Conley said. "Every time you put it in the water, something breaks."

His next project: a fire boat like the ones that spray arcs of water at harbor ceremonies. "That won't take me 12

years," he said. "I have a new rule - nothing over 4 feet."

He's philosophical about giving away the boats that took him so long to build:

"Even if you sell them, you never get your labor out of them. To start something like this, you have to be about half nuts, and by the time you're finished, you're fully nuts. But you do get a lot of enjoyment out of it."

*Editors Note:* The preceding is republished from a 4 July 2010 *Idaho Statesman* article by Tim Woodward. ★

**ENDOWMENT**

**UPDATE**



Our Endowment balance currently stands at **\$49,910.00** (Our goal is \$500,000)

Recent Endowment

Donors include:

**Lei Lonnie Wood**

The plan is to create a financial base which will ensure the preservation of Idaho's military heritage for future generations.

Also, **the next time you purchase something on line, the Museum can receive a commission** on your purchase. **The only 'catch' is that you have to access the retailer through this website:** Look for this image/link on our webpage to take you directly there.



They also keep a running balance of money raised on the webpage.

**Our current balance is \$6.77. We won't receive a commission check until we reach \$10.** ★

**IN MEMORIAM**

We sadly report the passing of two of our members. Vernon J. Baker and Mary C. Bruch.



**Vernon J. Baker**

Vernon J. Baker passed away after a valiant battle with cancer on July 13, 2010.

Vernon was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1997 for his actions in Italy on 5-6 April 1945. He was the sole surviving African-American Medal of Honor Recipient from World War II. (See *Pass In Review 4th Quarter 2000*)

His funeral was held in St. Maries on July 31, 2010; attendance was estimated at 600. Tributes poured in, to include a letter from former President Clinton which was read at the proceedings. His final resting place will be Arlington National Cemetery; burial is tentatively scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>.



**Mary C. Bruch**

Mary C. Bruch passed away after a valiant battle with cancer on August 20, 2010.

Mary and her husband, retired Navy Commander Charles 'Gregg' Bruch, retired to Boise in 1997 and joined the IMHS in 2000.

Mary's reflection on her Navy days was "Navy Wife, I Loved the Life." Interment took place at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the Baker and Bruch families. ★

**MEMBERSHIP REMINDER**

As a reminder, your IMHS membership is due for renewal in **January**. That time is quickly approaching.

Annual renewals are:

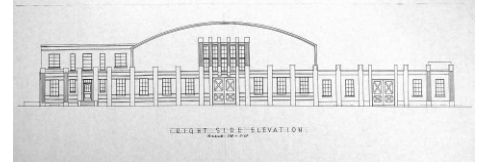
<b>General Membership:</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Senior (60+):</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Associate (Spouse):</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Student:</b>	<b>\$10</b>

If you'd like to become a Lifetime Member and forgo the annual reminder, a **Lifetime Membership is \$375**. Payment may be spread out over a one-year period.

*Help us help you preserve Idaho's Proud Military History!* ★

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

...one of the two original headquarters of the Idaho National Guard still stands and is located next to downtown Boise? Located near old Fort Boise, 801 Reserve St. (on the corner of Avenue H and Reserve St.) is a beautiful 1930s 40,000 square-foot Art Deco building.



The Boise Armory, now referred to as the Reserve Street Armory, was designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel Architects. Construction of the armory was conducted by locally skilled laborers through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1937.

The oldest section of the property originally housed the 116th Cavalry Regiment's stables containing approximately 9,000 square-feet complete with an indoor riding facility.

The Drill Hall was located in the central section; a 180 x 80-foot barrel-vaulted space enclosing approximately 14,000 square-feet. Along the interior perimeter of the building were various rooms; the stable keeper's sleeping quarters, a latrine, a mess area, a V.I.P. quarters and



a small “barracks” type cantonment section for a small garrison of Soldiers.

Along Reserve St., a second level of administrative spaces was added many years later providing approximately 20,000 additional square-feet.

The Armory saw continual use for 34 years starting at the tail-end of the interwar period through WWII and Korea until 1971 when the National Guard relocated to Gowen Field (now the Bennett Building named after Maj. Gen. George B. Bennett, Adjutant General from 1965 to 1974).

The armory property consists of roughly 5 acres which at one time bordered the old polo field where the Idaho Army National Guard trained in the evenings and weekends and bivouacked during its Annual Training periods over the summers. The armory was part of the Camp Bonneville Training Area which accommodated troops from Idaho’s 116th Cavalry Regiment now headquartered on Gowen Field.

The 116th Engineer Battalion also used the Camp Bonneville area which spanned between the Boise Barracks, south to the old Army Hospital (where Mountain Cove School sits today) and along Reserve St.

The training field was built by the Regular Army prior to the existence of the Idaho National Guard. The intent was to use the field to train cavalry Soldiers, however, by the 1880’s most enlistees had no horse experience when they joined and therefore had to be trained. The Idaho National Guard leadership at the time had the idea that polo would be an excellent way to accomplish training as well as offer an incentive to enlist. A number of individuals that joined in the 20’s and 30’s did so just so they could play polo.



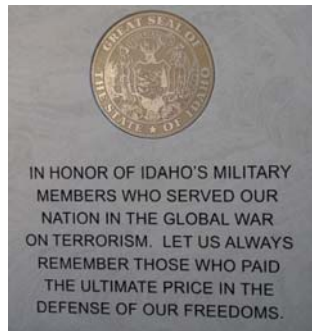
Today, belonging to the city of Boise and abandoned for years, the armory sits

vacant with significant damage to both the interior and exterior from both weather and vandalism. In 1998 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register concluded that the armory is of historical significance due to “its association with the reorganization and professionalization of the Idaho National Guard during the period between the two World Wars.” Although the future of the building remains uncertain, a recent plan to auction off the property was postponed in order for the city to hear proposals from a number of private groups expressing concerns over losing a local historical landmark. *CPT Chris Borders, IDNG Historian. ★*

**MEMORIAL TO IDAHO’S FALLEN**

On September 11, 2010, a memorial to those Idahoans who have paid the ultimate



price in the Global War on Terror was unveiled.

Located in front of the old Ada County

Courthouse on Jefferson Street in downtown Boise, two black granite pillars bear the names of the 51 soldiers,

sailors and marines who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom since September 11, 2001.

One of the two granite pillars



Marking the path to the memorial were 51 U.S. flags, each flag pole bearing a name, photo and information sheet on one of the 51 service members.

Each service members name was read into the record by the Governor and First Lady. Many family members were in attendance. On the day prior to the unveiling, each family was presented with a granite plaque with their loved ones name engraved upon it and a U.S. flag which had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in their honor. Suffice to say, it was a very emotional event.

When I began compiling the names of those who had fallen, I never dreamed that it would be adopted and turned into such a wonderful tribute. I am proud to have played a small part in the effort.



**MOST WANTED**

This is a combination of an announcement of a new artifact and a request for assistance.

The IMHS is now the proud owner of a MIG-15UTI. The problem is, it is located in Phoenix, Arizona and we need to get it to Boise.



**Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15 “Fagot”/”Midget”**

We are in the process of planning the move and would greatly appreciate any donations to offset the cost of transporting the aircraft via truck from Phoenix to Boise. ★

**IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY**



**De'Vou 'Dee' Evan Humphreys**

**Founder of "Horse Therapy" at Farragut Naval Training Station**

Dee Humphreys was born 18 March 1913, in Millville, Utah, the oldest son of Evan and Anna Humphreys of Millville, Utah. The family later grew to include two sisters and a brother. Dee grew up in Millville and attended South Cache High School. He was an active member of the LDS Church and on 14 November 1935, he married Melba Layne of Lewiston, Utah in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.

Dee found work as a 'Soda Jerk' at the Walgreens on Center and Main in Logan, Utah and the family later moved to Preston, Idaho where they built and operated "Dee's Drive Inn."

When World War II broke out, Dee was on the list to be drafted but opted to join the Navy instead, enlisting on 23 March 1944. He attended his 'boot' training at the Farragut Naval Training Station near Athol, Idaho arriving at the Station on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. He was assigned to Company 381 and graduated in May of 1944. His brother Arden LaDay also joined the Navy but did not train at Farragut.

After graduation, Dee's experience with running a restaurant came in to the picture and he became a cook at the Station.



**Dee's "Buddies in Cooking"**

Meanwhile, the Stations hospital expanded and began treating wounded and 'shell shocked' sailors who had seen action in the Pacific. Dee had decided he wanted to make a difference while he was in the Navy and away from his family. As he often said, "*if someone gives you a lemon, make lemonade out of it.*"

Dee and friend James Fulton had a brainstorm..."Animal Therapy." They knew that animals, horses in particular, would help the men "*come back to their senses.*" Dee knew from personal experience how working with horses could soothe the soul; he had two of his own at home.

They approached Lieutenant Commander King who had a horse at the Station. King, a Texan, liked the idea, as Dee later stated, "*it hit him just right.*" Dee offered to bring in his own horses and King emphatically approved and in fact brought in additional horses of his own. Thus began the Farragut Naval Riding Academy.



**The Farragut Naval Riding Academy. Dee Humphreys is in the front row, fifth from the left.**



**Lieutenant Commander Thomas J. King astride Bughouse**

Eventually the station boasted 12 horses. They were procured by the Welfare and Recreation department which derived its profits from the sales at the ships service stores.



**The Academy's First Ten Horses**

It wasn't just the patients who enjoyed riding and working with the horses. They became so popular that an article in the 7 June 1945 station newspaper, the *Farragut News*, read as follows:

"One of the most popular of the summer sports is riding, and a large stable is ready for the use of all hands. Rehabilitation patients have free use of the ponies from 0800 to 1200 daily. All other personnel may make reservations from 1300 to 1800 by calling 6120. The stable is secured on Monday to give the horses a rest."

The fee for non-patients was 50 cents per hour with the additional caveat that "none may be kept more than three hours at a time" and that "appointments are necessary after 1600."

The horses were housed in a stable adjacent to house No. 5 in the Bayview areas; Dee and his friend Fulton, were in



charge of the stable. Patients were allowed and invited to work in the stables. The horses could not be taken outside the Training Station proper, but several trails were provided in the wooded area of the Station near Bayview. Riders were also not to use the main highways.



**S2C James Fulton shoeing a horse**

There are also a number of articles in the *Farragut News*, about the WAVES “flocking to the stables” to enjoy a ride on a horse. There was even an article about the WAVES and the horses in a 13 May 1945 New York newspaper.

And the beauty of it all, Dee’s idea was right on target. A front page article in the 26 April 1945 *Farragut News* read: “Horses are helping combat veterans of Pelelieu, Guam, Philippines, Saipan and Iwo Jima to ‘get back in the saddle’ of normal living.

“A stable of 12 horses and a colt has been installed near the U.S. Naval Hospital at Farragut, largely for use by rehabilitation patients. The mounts are available every day for brisk rides through the many woodland trails at this mountainous Naval establishment.

“Then too, the sailors and Marines, fresh from the world battle fronts, find solace in brushing and handling the horses and many have expressed a desire to gambol with the colt and to work in training it.

“Marine Pfc. George La Ferriere of Minneapolis, Minn., recently was

admitted to Farragut Hospital after two years of overseas service. He was at Bougainville, Guadalcanal, Guam and the Marshalls. Although only 22, he was a bundle of nerves upon arrival here. Doctors found it difficult to get him adjusted to peaceful America after his many months amid booming guns, air attacks and constant nearness to violent death.

“I feel at home in the saddle,’ La Ferriere remarked. ‘It’s the one way I’ve found to relax. I get on the horse and I forget military life entirely,’ he said. ‘It was something I dreaded about over there,’ La Ferriere declared, ‘and it’s good exercise, too.’

“Every morning finds a line of the veterans waiting for the opportunity to take a refreshing ride. Each must have authorization from a Navy doctor that his physical condition will permit horseback riding. And a Navy guide accompanies all riding parties to assist novices and to keep the riders from getting lost.”

The horses were also periodically entered in various show competitions and there are a number of newspaper articles triumphantly announcing that the horses had won or placed in the competition.

By now Farragut was also home to a sizeable number of German POWs and they too enjoyed working with the horses. Dee became acquainted with Werner Wagner, one of the POWs. Although personal communication with the POWs was forbidden, the two managed to become friends.



**Werner Wagner and Dime; feed detail**

After the war, the friendship continued for over 50 years. [As I remember, Dad

*told us that the German Prisoner’s and the Naval base men built the stable and corral; it was not there before that.]*

As the war came to it’s by now inevitable conclusion, the Station began taking on new rolls. All service schools were scheduled to close 1 May 1945 and on Saturday, 15 June 1946, in a gray mist and drizzling rain, the Farragut Naval Training Station was decommissioned.

Dee returned to Utah with his two horses and transitioned back into civilian life. Dee and his wife, Melba, teamed up to own and operate a variety of businesses, among them, a bowling alley in Ogden, Utah and *Mel O Dee Ranch* in Logan, Utah. They are probably best known as the wallpaper and paint people from State Hardware, later called State Wallpaper, which they owned and operated on Main Street in Logan, Utah for 50 years.

They also owned and managed residential and commercial properties. Dee and Melba celebrated their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 14 November 2002 and in March 2003, Dee’s family threw him a grand 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

DeVou Evan “Dee” Humphreys passed away peacefully at the age of 92 at the Legacy House Assisted Living Center in Logan, Utah on 4 December 2005 and was buried in Millville, Utah.

Idaho and countless veterans who benefited from your knowledge of horses and their therapeutic affect on the human spirit, thank you for your service.



*Editors Note: A very special thank you to Marlene Humphreys who shared her father’s story and photographs with us. That’s her in the center of the above photo. ☆*

**IDAHO'S (ALMOST)  
U.S. ARMY WINTER  
TRAINING CAMP**



**Looking East at Foundations and Paymaster Vault**

PROLOGUE - Since the 1940's, generations of locals and tourists in the Island Park, Idaho area have driven by old concrete footings and what appears to be two concrete vaults that have kept a silent vigil near Henry's Lake. Questions were always answered by the locals as, "it was an old Army Base during World War II that was being built for winter training and then shut down without reason."

Though the camp was located in Idaho overlooking Henry's Lake, it was known as the Army Winter Training Camp, West Yellowstone, Montana, which was the closest town and airport.

STORY - On November 30, 1939, the USSR invaded Finland with a force of a million men supported by tanks, aircraft, and naval forces. In Vermont, a group of men, Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole (founder of the National Ski Patrol System), Alec Bright of Boston and Roger Langley, began watching news reels of the day. Particular attention was paid to how the vastly outnumbered Finnish Army did a phenomenal job of pushing back the invading Russians.

Soldiers in white camouflage uniforms and mounted on skis contributed much to the early victories over the invading Soviets. A perfect example of men fighting in a winter environment in which they were entirely at home and for which they were trained. Americans saw ski troops in action on the big screen.

This small group of men headed by Dole, began a dedicated effort to convince the

Army and the War Department that winter skilled and trained troops were an absolute necessity. Their initial meetings were met with total indifference.

With war on the horizon, the Army, in a worst case scenario, did envision a global conflict. If Hitler succeeded in Europe, he could invade North America, probably via the St. Lawrence River Valley between the US and Canada. After talking with little success to lower officers, the group of men finally secured a meeting with General George C. Marshall who made a decision that the whole matter should be looked into.

The subject of training and equipment was then explored. The Army thought that their "Alaskan Equipment" could be used, but a Quartermaster search revealed that such equipment no longer existed. The Army's book on Alaska was in fact dated 1914. It became immediately obvious that a complete new start was needed.

In mid 1940, Dole wrote to General Marshall stressing the importance of obtaining the correct equipment for mountain troops, and then offered to use the National Ski Patrol as the recruiting mechanism for finding experienced skiers to help train troops in ski patrol work. Winter maneuvers had been practiced on a small scale by a few troops stationed in Alaska and Fort Snelling, Minnesota using existing "general issue" equipment.

In November 1940, the War Department issued a directive forming ski patrol units at bases including Fort Lewis, Washington and Lake Placid, New York with the National Ski Patrol advisors reporting back on problems with equipment and camping techniques. More intense training was held by Fort Lewis' 3rd Division's 15th Regiment on nearby Mount Rainer.

In April 1941, the Army ordered an investigation of sites capable of housing a division of 15,000 men and suitable for year-round training of mountain troops. They needed a site with mountains, a truck highway and railroad, and one and one half million gallons of water a day.



**Top of Large Underground Room**

Their first choice was a site near West Yellowstone, Montana on the edge of Yellowstone National Park.

The Howard Young family ran *Young's Valley View Ranch* across the road from the construction site. Their business consisted of a restaurant, hand operated gas pumps, and about 12 cabins which were rented out. The Young's did quite well that year catering to and feeding the work crews of the Army Base. Feeding 125 men at one setting was not uncommon.

Construction began on a large log building which enclosed one of the existing paymaster vaults. A large buried concrete building approximately 40' x 60' with a stairway leading down into it would have served as storage for high explosive devices (ordnance). Several other storage buildings of a lesser strength were also built.

The Military felt so sure of the project, that when William Enget started to build a home on the east side of the flat, he was advised not to proceed, that the Army would be taking over the entire area within a matter of months.

Construction ceased when the deep snows arrived and the crews went home for the rest of the winter. The buildings were boarded up and locked. The following spring of 1942 proved to be quite different.

Crews arrived and worked on the project for a couple of months. Then word came to tear everything down. The salvageable materials were hauled off, those not worth saving were burned and pushed into a trench and buried. Locals remember inquiring about buying the buildings or material, but in typical Government fashion, were refused.

The cancellation of the project caught everyone by surprise and no good

reasons were given. The most popular response to questions was that the Base was no longer needed and that the Army was pulling out. We can assume that the Army, post-Pearl Harbor, was operating with some degree of secrecy.

So what really did happen? The officers who had selected the site failed to note that nearby Henry's and Red Rock Lakes were a refuge and breeding ground for one of the last remaining populations of the near extinct Trumpeter Swan.



**Interior of Underground Room**

After being hunted to near extinction, by 1935 only 70 adult trumpeter swans were known to exist in the lower 48 states. By 1941, the US Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that there was a population of 140 adults and 69 cygnets. These were thought to be the only wild trumpeters in existence. Secretary of War Stimson at first refused to give up the site, but the opposition of

naturalists and bird lovers at length caused him to yield. The Army abandoned the Base.

The Army assessed other sites in Colorado and finally settled on Camp Hale located near Pando, Colorado. The 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment along with the 86th and 85th from Fort Lewis, Washington were assigned to Camp Hale to eventually form what became the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division.

This Division and its various elements trained at Camp Hale until their deployment to Italy in late 1944. Camp Hale included 1,022 temporary structures; barracks, administrative buildings, shops, stables, a veterinary center, hospital, and a field house. Henry's Lake would have been a post for training and testing men and weapons in severe winter conditions. Training maneuvers for skiing, rock climbing, target practice and working with as many as 5,000 mules and 200 dogs would have been common place. Heavy artillery, trucks, amphibious vehicles, and other equipment were to be tested.

As to the impact that the Base would have had on the local economy, one can imagine how several thousand troops out on weekend leave would have impacted West Yellowstone and the surrounding Island Park area.


So what became of Camp Hale in Colorado? The 10th Mountain Division was deactivated after World War II. Buildings at the camp began to be torn down in 1946, and by 1952 only a few were left. The Army cited high maintenance costs and that their need no longer existed. The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division after being deactivated and reactivated several times is now located at Fort Drum, New York.

*Thomas L. Howell.*

**Editors Note:** For more information, see Tom's website at: <http://snakeriver4x4.com/armybase.html> ★

**Produced By:** Idaho Military Historical Society  
**Feature Stories, Editor & Production:** 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** - Perhaps you know somebody who is interested in the joining the Society. The enclosed membership application may be used or copied as needed. Don't forget, **donations are tax deductible.**

	<b>IDAHO MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>		
	4040 W. Guard Street, Boise, Idaho 83705-5004		
<i>Donation/Membership Application/Renewal Form</i>			
<b>YES!</b> Please enter my <b>tax-deductible</b> membership application/renewal in the category checked below. I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount indicated. I understand my donation is <b>tax-deductible</b> and am pleased to accept my canceled check as my receipt. Please find enclosed my donation for the amount indicated. <i>(The IMHS is a 501(c)(3) Organization.)</i>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>	\$ 25 [ ] General	\$ 375 [ ] Lifetime	\$ 10 [ ] Student
	\$ 10 [ ] Associate (Members Spouse)	\$ 15 [ ] Senior (60+)	
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL:</b>	\$ 500 [ ] Platinum	\$ 100 [ ] Silver	
	\$ 250 [ ] Gold	\$ 50 [ ] Bronze	
<b>OTHER:</b> <i>(Endowment, Contributions, etc.)</i>			
\$ _____	FOR: _____	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:</b>	\$ _____
<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Phone:</b> _____		
<b>Address:</b> <i>(City, State, Zip)</i> _____			
<b>Interests:</b> <i>(Volunteering, Research, Displays, etc.)</i> _____		<b>E-Mail Address:</b> _____	



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

*Heroic Past...Proud Future*