



PASS IN REVIEW

“Shedding Light On Idaho’s Military History”

1st Quarter

March 2007

NEW MUSEUM PHONE NUMBER
Effective March 15, 2007, the Museum phone number changed to 272-4841. Part of Gowen Field is adopting a new prefix and the Museum falls into that section. Please make note of the new number as the old prefix will only give you a recording for a very limited period of time. ★

CURATOR’S CORNER

I am happy to report to you that since my last Curator’s Corner, there has been a tremendous amount of progress made in our artifact collections department. Last year, thanks to our funding from the State of Idaho, we were able to purchase critical artifact preservation materials in the form of acid free boxes and paper. These items, while they may sound simple, are costly but provide the necessary protection to the uniforms and other artifacts in the collection.

The best part of all this is the volunteer team we have working with the artifact collections. *Jan Toolson* (one of our newest volunteers), *Lyle Gessford* and *Ray and Effie Rae Wallace* have become a tight knit well functioning team upstairs each week. They are getting the artifacts accessioned (or cataloged), accurately and packing the artifacts for long term storage. These artifacts are now better protected than they ever have been.

In case you’re wondering what to do this year, be sure to check out our upcoming events. On 19 May the

Museum will be hosting an Armed Forces Day open house, from 10-4. More details will follow as they develop. On 14 June, the Idaho Military History Museum will be dedicating a new Medal of Honor exhibit. This will incorporate Sgt David Bleak’s Medal of Honor, so generously donated by his family last year.

Have you been to the Boise Towne Square Mall lately? The Museum has entered into a partnership with the ARNG Recruiters and we are now working with them on the Recruiters window. SFC Steele and I just changed out the exhibit there. This also gives the Museum great publicity!
-Gary Keith

NEW MEMBERS

Special Welcome to:

- ★ Charles L. Ake
(Upgraded to Lifetime)
- ★ Betty L. Corn
- ★ Douglas D. Howard
- ★ Eldon D. Howard
- ★ Cynthia L. Krapff
(Upgraded to Lifetime)
- ★ Robert K. Lytle
- ★ David Miller
- ★ Symantha Miller
- ★ Sally J. Robert
- ★ Betty L. Stoppello
- ★ Monte R. Stoppello
- ★ Wayne Suggs
★★★★★

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are highlights of our next two events. More details will be posted on the webpage as invitations are confirmed and more information becomes available.



19 May 2007 - Armed Forces Day Open House. Some of the highlights include: Blank firing demonstrations of military weapons, historical bivouac sites and re-enactors, local author book signings (*Bill Heath & Stephanie Hanson* will both be here), historical and current military weapons and equipment displays.



14 June 2007 – Unveiling of SGT David B. Bleak Medal of Honor. On 14 June 2006, Mrs. Bleak donated her late husbands Medal of Honor to the Museum. Mr. Bleak maintained that he did not wear the Medal for himself, he wore it for the people of Idaho.



David Bleak’s Medal of Honor

Please join us on 14 June 2007, the *55th Anniversary of his heroic action*, as we tell his story and unveil his Medal of Honor so it can be seen and appreciated by the people of the State of Idaho. ★

Inside This Issue

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER | ENDOWMENT UPDATE |
| RECENT DONATIONS | IN MEMORIAL |
| IDAHO SOLDIERS RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN | |
| HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEWSLETTERS? | DID YOU KNOW... |
| IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY – Betty Miller Corn | |
| NATIONAL ARCHIVES SEEKS FEE INCREASE | RENEWALS |
| MOST WANTED | UPCOMING REUNIONS |
| JUST IN CASE | |

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER



Please meet Steve Bonde

Normally I don't like to name somebody a volunteer of the quarter twice. We have several new high quality volunteers, but this Quarter's volunteer has been going above and beyond and I feel he deserves to be recognized....again! Please join me in thanking Steve Bonde.

Originally from Nampa, Steve joined the Idaho Air National Guard in 1958 and was a member of the 190th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in their Fire and Weapons control shop repairing aircraft radar.

Steve began volunteering at the Idaho Military History Museum in November 2002 and joined the Society in December of that year. Since then he has undertaken a variety of tasks. He started out working with artifact collections and docenting and was elected to the Board of Directors.

Since his election to the board, Steve has spent time working with the gift shop, docenting, working on our technology issues and assisting with general duties around the museum. *I cannot say enough about how much quality time Steve has volunteered, especially the last few months.*

He has consistently been an eager, self motivated volunteer and thanks to Steve's efforts, we now have a

first rate computer network system in the Museum! Thanks to Steve's persistence and guidance, the Museum is a more efficient place. It's hard to thank Steve for everything he has done here.



Steve Bonde being recognized by Rick Johnson and Gary Keith at the 2006 Volunteer Appreciation Event

On top of all this, he works part time at Idaho Camera in their Vista Avenue store. His little free time is spent zipping around the countryside in his Mazda Miata and taking photographs.

Thank you Steve, we deeply appreciate all your hard work. You are our Volunteer of the Quarter!

☆☆☆☆

ENDOWMENT UPDATE

Our Endowment balance currently stands at **\$36,000.00**



Recent Endowment Donors include:

**Floyd A. Iverson
Peter R. Jacobson**

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. ☆

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.

Alice Ankenman - Gowen Field Firefighters' call book and manual

SFC Jeffery Packer - patches and Distinctive Unit Insignia from 204th Training Regiment

Ted Brownfield - US Army WWII era French Language Guide and WWII Japanese Army soldier's personal "Good Luck" Flag ☆

IN MEMORIAL



It is with deep regret that we inform you of the passing of one of our members, H. Denis McCarrel. Our deepest sympathies go out to the

McCarrel family. ☆

IDAHO SOLDIERS RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN

February 19, 2007



The first 50 of 250 soldiers from the Idaho National Guard's

1-183rd Aviation Battalion returned from Afghanistan Sunday after being deployed for the last 18 months.

The battalion spent eight months in training, then another 12 months in Afghanistan, serving in Afghanistan since February 2006. The battalion has served on a diverse mission that included combat in Apache helicopters, troop and equipment

transport and medical care to soldiers and Afghan civilians.

It was an exciting day for friends and family who have waited for this day for a year and a half. A gathering of hundreds of parents, spouses, children, even Governor Otter, were at a Gowen Field warehouse armed with signs, balloons and anticipation to see their soldiers arrive home.

The soldiers arrived in a C-130 as hundreds watched and waited for the door to open. As soon as the backdoor of the plane opened and the first soldiers came out, family members began running forward; hugs and kisses flowed before the soldiers could cross the tarmac!

The soldiers said they believe their service made a difference in Afghanistan. "We're doing a great thing over there," said Apache crew chief Sgt. Goran Tadic. Tadic, 26, came to the United States from Bosnia at age 16 because of the war in his country. He said he can relate to the struggle in Afghanistan.



"We're helping the locals produce their own country, to achieve what they want, to have democracy and freedom," he said. Soldier Adonis Jones, computers and communications, said the humanitarian missions were the high point of the deployment for him. "It did touch some of them. You want to help them all but you can't."

Jones, of Meridian, said he's more appreciative of home after this, his first deployment, and the things he

took for granted — the solitude of his bathroom, drinking water from a tap, and not having to constantly walk over rocks and boulders.

There are two more groups of soldiers, all part of the 183rd Aviation Battalion that will return to Idaho in the next two weeks.

The preceding, to include photos, is a composite of material from ktvb.com and Idahostatesman.com

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 2007.)

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 gayle.alvarez@idbois.ang.af.mil and she will 'sign' you up.

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 March is Women's History Month? In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. The week was chosen to coincide with

International Women's Day, March 8. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month in March, and the U.S. President has issued a proclamation. – USA.GOV

IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY



BETTY MILLER CORN
FIRST WOMAN TO JOIN THE IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Betty Lou Miller was born on February 19, 1932 in Boise, Idaho to William Anthony and Clara Telitha Miller.

She grew up on Hill Road and later the family moved to "about seven miles from Boise" near the Plantation Golf Course. She attended Pierce Park Elementary, Boise Junior High and went on to Boise High School.

About a year after graduating high school, she enrolled in a 3-year Nursing school at Boise's St. Luke's Hospital. "I'd always wanted to be a nurse. My mother suggested I try being a nurse's aid first so I could be sure that was what I really wanted to do. It was so I enrolled in the Nurses Training."

At first, the school was run by Boise Junior College but it later became St. Luke's school. Betty lived in a dorm across from the hospital. After graduating, she worked at St. Luke's for a while and then briefly at St. Alphonsus. She then went to Texas for two years to

be with her sister and worked as a nurse there as well.

After moving back to Idaho, she went to work at the Veterans Administration in Boise. One of the doctors, Doctor Peterson, asked one of the nurses if she was interested in joining the Idaho Air National Guard as they needed nurses. She wasn't but she thought that perhaps Betty might be.

Betty was very interested and on July 15, 1959, she was appointed as a First Lieutenant and Nurse in the Idaho Air National Guard. She was the first woman to join the Idaho Air National Guard! *"I don't think they had any women secretaries then."* [They did but the women weren't in the military, they were civilians.] The historical significance of her appointment was noticed by the media and shortly after Betty joined, she was contacted by one of them for an interview.

She became a 'weekend warrior' working at the Veterans' Hospital during the week and drilling once a month with the Air Guard. A few months later, Joanne Hamilton (Abbott) joined her becoming the second woman to join the Idaho Air Guard.

Betty didn't have to go to 'boot camp' but she did attend Officers School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama where among other things, she learned the fine art of marching and saluting. She also learned a lot and made several friends. They still keep in touch with each other.

She also attended Basic Orientation Course for Medical Service in November 1959 in Montgomery, Alabama and an Administrative Supervisor's Course in March 1960. She and Joanne also attended some training in Philadelphia where they met up again with some former classmates from Officers School.

Betty also earned her Flight Nurse Wings at a Flight Nurse Course in San Antonio, Texas in December of 1960. Idaho's unit wasn't a transport unit so she wasn't able to make full use of them but she did help with a couple of Mercy Missions. She accompanied "Fearless Ferris" who had polio, to California and made a trip to San Antonio, Texas with a young boy. ["Fearless Ferris" was Farris Lind of the Fearless Farris Stinker Station.]



Betty Miller and Joanne Hamilton, pioneering women in the Idaho Air National Guard

When asked what her days in the guard were like, she summed it up in one word, "Fun!" *"It took me a while to find my niche"* but for the most part she was treated well by the men who were now learning to adjust to working with women in uniform. *"It was an interesting time"* she said.

What were her duties as the first nurse in the Idaho Air National Guard? *"I gave a lot of shots!"* She also helped with the pilot physicals, eye exams and helped give classes to airmen on emergency response procedures.

One day in 1960, there was a party at the NCO Club and she decided to attend. She took Dr. Charles Marsh with her *"because I didn't want to go by myself."* There she met a fellow Air Guard officer by the name of Sam. *"I danced with Sam. He was always a*

perfect gentleman, with perfect manners." The attraction was mutual and they began dating. Betty was promoted to Captain on February 13, 1962; she and Sam married on August 25, 1962.

For a brief period of time, being in the guard was a real family affair for the Corns; Betty, Sam and Sam's son Dick were all in the guard at the same time! Samuel Corn went on to become Lt Col, Commander of the 124 Fighter Group in January 1974 and in the fall of 1975, he transitioned the unit into the 124th TRG, as the ANG received a new mission and the RF-4C aircraft.

When Sam was promoted to Colonel he got a lot of razzing about being Colonel Corn. The 1970 release of the movie *Catch 22* with a character by the name of Colonel Korn, probably didn't help matters any! Betty took it one step further by sewing kernels of corn on to his uniform. They were together for 44 years, Sam passed away in October of 2006.

Betty served in the Air Guard for a little over 6 years. In the military of today, her reason for leaving is a bit unusual, she was expecting. *"Women weren't supposed to be in the military if they were pregnant. I stayed in until I couldn't button my uniform anymore."* That was September 24, 1965. Son Sammy was born in October. Two years later daughter Sally was born.

Today Betty is retired, if spending time with friends, pets, kids, grand kids and weekly bible study gives one enough 'spare' time to call it retired. When asked what she enjoyed the most about being in the Guard she replied *"The people, I met a lot of special people. I also felt privileged to be able to take trips in the T-33, C-47 and once in an F-102 with Sam."* She also made a lasting friendship with Joanne Hamilton Abbott. *"We became very good friends and we share many good memories."*

As of February 2007, there are 179 women in the Idaho Air National Guard. In 1959, Betty was the first. She was truly a pioneer and serves as a wonderful

role model for today's women and young girls.

*Editors Note: A very special thank you to **Betty Corn** for granting an interview for our story. Special thanks also to **Bill Miller and Dale Hendry** for their technical assistance. ★*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES SEEKS INCREASE OF COPYING FEES

If any of you have ever ordered or contemplated ordering records from the National Archives, the following will be of interest to you. It has been provided courtesy of the State Historical Society and The National Coalition for History (NCH), a nonprofit educational organization.

On February 26, 2007, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) published a proposed rule announcing its intention to raise its fees for reproducing federal records and historical materials in NARA's holdings. The proposed rule covers Federal records created by other agencies that are in the National Archives, donated historical materials, presidential records, Nixon Presidential historical materials, and records filed with the Office of the Federal Register.

The proposed rule, which includes the new fee structure, is available at the Federal Register's website at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-3160.pdf>

The deadline for submitting comments on the proposed rule is April 27, 2007. NARA does not receive appropriations from Congress to cover copying costs,

and the agency must cover the cost from user fees. This would be the first increase in reproduction fees in seven years. It would apply to everything from self-service copy machines, to mail orders and reproductions. In fiscal year 2006, NARA said its costs for fixed-fee services were more than double the revenue the agency received in copying fees.

Copies made by users at a NARA self-service copier would go from the current 15 cents per-page to 25 cents.

Paper-to-paper copies made by NARA staff would rise from the current 50 cents to 75 cents per-page.

Microfilm to paper copies made by a customer on a NARA self-service machine would increase from the current 30 cents per-page to 50 cents per-page.

Certifications would go from the current \$6 to \$15. There would be a minimum fee of \$15 for all mail orders, up from the current \$10.

The biggest increase would be in the cost of a complete pension file more than 75 years old that would go from the current \$37 to \$125.

There are also price increases for providing copies of passenger lists, Federal census records, and military records, all of which would be raised to \$25.

In a separate interim final rule, NARA determined it was not appropriate to apply fee increases to the reproduction of records of other Federal agencies stored in NARA Federal records centers that are not in their legal custody. This interim rule can be found at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-3162.pdf>

The deadline for comments on this interim final rule is April 27, 2007, and it will go into effect on May 29, 2007. ★

RENEWALS

Don't forget that your membership is now renewable in January. Check your address label on your newsletter to be sure you have. *Thank you for supporting the Idaho Military History Museum!* ★

MOST WANTED

➤ **Docents** – our shortage is critical!



➤ **WWII Pocatello Army Air Field/Base** – looking for information and photos

➤ **WWII Mountain Home Army Air Field** - looking for information and photos

➤ **WWII POW camps located throughout Idaho** - looking for information and photos

➤ **Information on the Regular Army Advisors attached/assigned to various Idaho units during the 1950s and 1960s** - specifically who was assigned to which unit ★

UPCOMING REUNIONS...


This just in... the 58th Annual Reunion of the 148th Field Artillery will be held in Bend, Oregon 13-16 September 2007.

For questions, contact Ellen Heath at 208.639.8600 or eheath@syringabank.com.

To register, contact Maryilyn & Bob Lochridge at 541.322.0989. ★

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Comments or article suggestions are welcome, contact us at 272-4841 or visit our web site at: <http://inghro.state.id.us/museum/>

JUST IN CASE Have you sent in your renewal for 2007? 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!

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|  | IDAHO MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY | | |
| | 4040 W. Guard Street, Boise, Idaho 83705-5004 | | |
| Donation/Membership Application/Renewal Form | | | |
| 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. | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| \$ 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> General | \$ 375 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime | \$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| \$ 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (Members Spouse) | \$ 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+) | |
| ORGANIZATIONAL: | | | |
| \$ 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum | \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver |
| \$ 250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold | \$ 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>) _____ | | | |



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Heroic Past...Proud Future