



Eddyville, 1950.

Thelma Finney

By Marlo Faulkner

“Eddyville” did not exist before the mid-forties when my parents, Wes Hamlet, Tony Moen and Earl Eddy bought lake property that had been a church camp on the South shore of Wolf Lodge Bay. Their plan was to turn the camp lodge into a seasonal bar/restaurant, provide landing for the Finney Transportation charter boats, and to subdivide the western section into residential lots. To get a liquor license under Idaho law, only municipalities qualified. They incorporated the entire plat into a municipality with Earl Eddy to run the bar and restaurant. He declared that if he had to stay and live there, they should name it after him. They did: Eddyville. The bar/restaurant became known as “Finney’s Lodge.”

By the early fifties, my parents had built the first “Dancewana” (as a covered dance floor constructed over WW II surplus bridge pontoons) and bought out their partners. My mother, Thelma Finney, took over

management at Eddyville each year from May to October, including the bar and the kitchen. After several years of dealing with hired bartenders who could not keep their hands off the money, she decided to tend bar herself.

Eddyville was pretty isolated. Mom lived above the bar, cooked, and ran the place. The one-lane road in off of Highway 97 was rough. Beer distributors would deliver, but everything else (liquor, meat, produce, kitchen supplies) came by boat - even the customers. No one cared that she was tending bar. She loved her customers and they, her. And, everyone knew she was breaking the law.

My parents went to Sun Valley for the State Liquor Association meeting and met other women who lived in isolated areas and were working in their own bars. My mother volunteered to be a test case in the state of

Idaho based on her right to work in her own business.

I remember the day she was arrested. It was a Sunday. She served on Sunday. It was illegal, too. She saved soft drink cans and cut the tops out so they were essentially metal "glasses." These she used to serve hard liquor so it wasn't so obvious what she was doing. The Sheriff arrived in the Sheriff's boat. He brought the local US Marshall with him—both in uniform. They sidled up to the bar and, as I recall (I was in my early teens and was the "official" dishwasher) both ordered V.O. and 7 (Canadian whiskey and 7-Up). They enjoyed their drinks, chatted up the other customers, all of whom knew what was coming as her arrest had been arranged ahead of time and Mom had announced it to everyone.

When they had finished their drinks, the Sheriff said to Mom, "Sorry, I have to do this, Thelma." He pulled out his handcuffs. She placed her wrists in the shiny steel. He clamped the cuffs and they set off for his boat at the lodge dock. She called out as she went out the door, "Look for me in the funny papers!"



Finney's Lodge bar, 1950. Bartender unidentified.

When they got to town and entered the jail, the Sheriff took off the cuffs, booked her, and announced that the jail was such a dump that he couldn't allow her to spend the night in it. He and the Marshall drove her back to the county dock, got in the Sheriff's boat and took her to Eddyville where she finished tending bar that day until everyone went home.

The case against her went to the Idaho Supreme Court on appeal as a Civil Rights precedent. They ruled: Women who own a percentage of a licensed beverage establishment had a civil right to tend bar in it. When I turned twenty-one, my parents transferred 10% of Finney's Lodge to my name and I became the youngest woman bartender in Idaho. More important, my mom, Thelma Finney, was willing to go to jail to give women the right to tend bar in Idaho. Today, any woman of age qualifies.

When she met my father, Captain John Finney, she had saved \$10,000.00 (in 1934 dollars) while work-



Thelma Finney at Finney's Lodge bar, Eddyville, 1963.



Thelma Finney, 1930s.



Thelma Finney piloting the Seeweewana, 1930s.

ing as a surgical nurse in Spokane. She loaned her savings to him to purchase the sister ship to the "Lady of the Lake" from Lake Chelan. The boat was shipped to Coeur d'Alene on a train car that was pushed out on one of the timber trestles near the current Third Street boat launch and unceremoniously rolled into the lake like a big log. Originally named "Halley's Comet," it was famous as the "Seeweewana."

From the beginning of their marriage Mom spent every Sunday in the bow galley of the "Seeweewana" making sandwiches and fixing drinks for passengers cruising up the lake to the "Shadowy St. Joe River." Every other day of the week, she took the commuter train from the Third and Front Street Coeur d'Alene station to Spokane where she worked sixteen-hour shifts at Deaconess.

She hated cooking and preparing food. Yet, every summer from 1948 to 1970 Mom ran the kitchen. Her "Chicken in a Basket" and 16 oz. T-bone steaks were famous on the lake, as was her secret recipe for French dressing. She loved serving the fishermen who came in for her half-pound burgers with homemade potato salad and a side of hand-cut fries. (She used to pick them out of

the deep-fryer with her fingers to see if they were done!) When she raised the price from 35 cents to 50 cents, many of them stopped coming in, claiming she'd "priced them out."

Thelma Finney came to Spokane in the late 1920s from a Swedish-speaking farm family in Dixon, Montana to become a nurse. She graduated from Deaconess Hospital with a specialty in surgery and anesthesia. In the mid-sixties, she commuted to Pullman to be certified in burn therapy and care. She helped organize Coeur d'Alene's "Mother's March on Polio" during the 1950s Polio pandemic and, with the Lady Lions, established the first audiometer program for testing hearing in the Coeur d'Alene schools. She passed Coast Guard examinations to become the first woman in Idaho

licensed to pilot passenger boats.

And, she never learned to swim.

When she died at age 89 in 1994, I wrote in her obituary for the Coeur d'Alene Press: "Thelma Finney never repeated anything she heard or saw at Edyville. She knew where every skeleton was buried, who dug the hole, where they got the shovel and who sold it to them." The obituary was copied on the Associated Press wire and was reported on CNN and in newspapers around the country.



The Seeweewana powering the Daneawana, circa 1950.

Museum of North Idaho Annual Report 2019

Through the generous support of our members, volunteers and community, the Museum of North Idaho continues to collect, preserve and interpret the history of the Coeur d'Alene Region.

Founded in 1968, the Museum is governed by a membership-elected, nine-member Board of Directors. We thank these people for serving on the board from April 2019 to April 2020: Pres. Mike Dixon, V.P. Julie Gibbs, Treas. Tom Richards, Secr. Courtney Beebe, Leanne Campbell, Steve Towles, Gail Hanninen, Kandi Johnson and Dick Sheldon. We thank John McTear for his service from 2016 to 2019.

Director Dorothy Dahlgren has been on staff since May 1982. Robert Singletary joined us as Public Relations and Marketing Director in May 2012, and CPA Lisa Hunt was hired October 2014 as bookkeeper. Jocelyn Whitfield-Babcock joined us part-time as Development Director in August 2019.

Moving History Forward

In 2019 our greatest achievement was acquiring and moving the White House. The Mark Launder Family donated the house and worked with us on the schedule for the move.

Jon Mueller and Steve Roth of Architects West were instrumental in bringing together the team, including Rob Johnson, John Swallow, board members Julie Gibbs, John McTear, Steve Towles, Mike Dixon and City of Coeur d'Alene staff Hilary Anderson and Tami Stroud. They put in many hours to see the project through.

Collaborative efforts with the City of Coeur d'Alene, ignitecda and the Tubbs Hill Foundation provided a nominal fee land lease. While our savings paid for the lion's share of the project, individuals and businesses donated cash, services and

materials to the effort. We hired Jim Faucher to lead the capital campaign.

We broke ground for the foundation on September 20 and on November 16 the house was moved from 8th and Sherman to 8th and Young, south of the Coeur d'Alene City Hall. The White House will be the centerpiece for a new museum which will include two wings to provide a premier regional museum space to exhibit and house our history.

Sharing History

The Museum inspires a dynamic connection to the unique heritage of the Coeur d'Alene region by celebrating, preserving, exhibiting and sharing history with its community and visitors. We offered several free admission days throughout the season including the 2nd Friday of the month from 5pm to 8pm for Art Walk, Smithsonian Museum Free Day and free admission to active duty military families. We also had several exhibits in the Coeur d'Alene Public Library lobby.

1,030 students visited the Museum. The 4th graders' admission and bus transportation was funded with donations from Doug and Deidre Chadderdon and Rod Schobert. Robert Singletary and Dave Eubanks presented North Idaho's history to 500 Coeur d'Alene middle and high school students.

Museum attendance was 5,852 in 2019. Visitors came from Kootenai County at 37%, Washington 10%, North Idaho 5%, Southern Idaho 5%, California 10%, Spokane 4%, and about 4% for each of the areas in the rest of the country.

In 2019 the annual meeting/dinner



Robert Singletary receiving the shipment of his book Coeur d'Alene Beautiful and Progressive at the Museum's storage building Oct. 22, 2019. Robert, Dorothy and Simone and Terry Kincaid helped the driver unload the 110 boxes of books.

was moved to the Coeur d'Alene Inn to accommodate the 116 people who attended. An Idaho Humanities grant covered Jack Nesbit's talk about John and Carrie Leiberg. The Friend of History award was presented to Jon Mueller for his book *Private Park, Public Park: A Story of Coeur d'Alene and its First Park*.

Robert Singletary presented historical programs to 980 people including four historical programs at the Library reaching 237 people. The Fort Sherman walking tours continue to be popular. He organized our North Idaho State Fair booth, providing an opportunity for the public to learn more about the Museum. Board members manned the booth promoting the museum and selling our books. Robert wrote numerous historical articles in magazines and newspapers including text for the weekly Nickel's Worth photo. Board member Dick Sheldon and Robert started a series of historical articles in the *Coeur d'Alene Press*.

Robert received the *Esto Perpetua* award from the Idaho State Historical Society. This is a wonderful honor. In past years, Director Dorothy Dahlgren and the Museum have

also received this award. This is the highest award given in the State for those working to safeguard Idaho's history.

People use the Museum's archives, especially the photo collection, to research projects, create reports, decorate homes and businesses, and for use on several online sites.

Publications

Since 1990, the Museum of North Idaho Press has published over 25 regional history books. Robert Singletary's book, *Coeur d'Alene Beautiful and Progressive: An Illustrated History of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 1879-1990*, was released in October with an overwhelming response. We also, mail over 800 quarterly newsletters.

Collections

Thirty-four people donated more than 175 artifacts, photos and archival materials to the Museum. The Museum's collections are searchable in-house in the PastPerfect database.

Buildings

Since 1979, the City has provided our Museum facility next to the City Park rent-free. We maintain the Fort Sherman Chapel for meetings and weddings. The Museum owns a building for large artifacts and general storage. Our smoke chaser's cabin is at North Idaho College next to the Powder Magazine.

Volunteers

In 2019, 62 volunteers donated over 2,000 hours to keep the Museum open and help preserve our region's history. Community service workers contributed an additional 175 hours. Sadly, Joy Porter passed away June 26. She had volunteered since 2001. She worked over 500 hours in 2018.

Tori Dunning and Simone Kincaid managed the Museum Store. We thank Terri Hunter for tax preparation and Group Argia SA for hosting our website.

*Volunteering over 100 hours

Marian Ackerman	Sandy McCoy
Kathy Arneson	Connie McGee
Dean Bakke	*Diane Melchior
Joan Baune	Mary Mills
Courtney Beebe	*Debbie Mitchell
Sheryl Brandon	Marshall Mitchell
Helen Branson	Jon Mueller
*Josh Burzynski	Larry O'Leary
Kelly Connaway	Dave Patzer
Angie Conrow	Don Pischner
Mike Cooney	Joy Porter
Scott Cranston	Becky Powers
Bob Delyea	Claire Reinwald
Karen DeSeve	Mary Ann Roberge
*Tori Dunning	Jane Robertson
McKayla Ferris	Beno Schlossmann
Kristy Flinn	Lynn Schwindel
Dave Eubanks	Steve Shepperd
Frame of Mind	Pam Silk
*Larry Frei	*Robert Singletary
Julie & Bill Gibbs	Gene Soper
Rocky Gibbs	Cheryl Sorenson
Lois Grutta	Angie Sowers
Geoff Howard	Kylie Sparks
Avery Hunt	David Taylor
Kevin Johnson	Robert Twyman
Marian Jones	Verna Valencia
*Linda Kincaid	Mark Weadick
Simone & Terry Kincaid	Michele Williams
Skip Kuck	John Wood
Bob MacDonald	*Ian Wright

Finances

We are in good financial health with a growing operating budget. We thank Kootenai County for their long support and the increase in our annual support. We began fund-raising for the new building. Our endowment is held by Idaho Community Foundation and the proceeds provide operating funds.

Operating Income 2019

Admission	16,067.00
County	16,250.00
Donations	10,398.95
Gift Shop	19,830.51
Transfer ICF/interest	14,012.01
Membership	25,536.00
Photo Sales	3,480.35
Postage	1,125.35
Programs/Banquet	8,480.00
Publishing	35,078.91
Total Operating Inc	150,259.08

Operating Expenses 2019

Bank Fees/Amazon	(2,461.58)
Gift Shop	(10,713.06)
Health Insurance	(4,956.21)

D & O Insurance	(747.00)
Fundraising Idaho Gives	(75.00)
Insurance-Buildings	(1,567.00)
Marketing	(1,124.19)
Payroll	(62,326.25)
Payroll taxes	(4,380.18)
Photo sales expenses	(1,467.87)
Postage	(2,382.12)
Printing	(2,736.04)
Publishing	(12,448.15)
Prof Dev/travel	(1,683.44)
Repairs & maint	(1,024.76)
Programs/Banquet	(5,822.52)
Property tax-storage bldg	(5.74)
Security	(720.00)
Supplies (artifact care)	(29.66)
Supplies (office)	(1,164.17)
Telephone	(1,081.42)
Utilities	(3,830.84)

Total Operating Exp (122,747.20)
Operating Inc/Exp 27,511.88

Special Funds

Building Fund

2019 Beginning Bal	238,056.58
2019 Donations	84,944.00
Transfer from reserves	180,954.67
Disbursements	(415,904.03)
Fund Balance 12/31/19	88,051.22

Chapel Fund

2019 Beginning Bal	39,064.78
Net inc/exp	1,716.53
Fund Bal 12/31/19	40,781.31

Chapel Income

Rent	5,072.00
Wedding/Events	3,296.00
Donations	269.00
Total year income	8,637.00

Chapel Expenses

Utilities	(3,313.26)
Repairs/maint	(2,363.47)
Chapel Insurance	(1,238.00)
Property tax	(5.74)
Total year expenses	(6,920.47)

Collections Fund

Fund Balance 12/31/19	25,063.83
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Endowment Donations

Donations 2019	2,937.00
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Income All Funds	246,777.08
All Expenses	(545,571.70)
Net	(298,794.62)

Net Assets

Morgan Stanley 12/2019	316,037.60
WT Bank Checking 12/2019	65,764.76
ICF Endowment 12/2019	237,347.69
Total Net Assets	619,150.05

From the Board President

Well, we are all very much aware of just how fragile and insignificant our plans can be in the face of other powers in the world. The Museum of North Idaho is no exception. Just as we were about to ramp up a fundraising campaign for the new museum, and begin restoration work on the J.C. White house, the virus hit. The museum was just about to open for the new season, featuring a great new *Rightfully Hers: Finding Equality In A Man's World* seasonal exhibit, but the doors have remained closed. All that and more, along with the rest of the world, came to a sudden halt.

However, the board, staff, and contractors have still been hard at work holding virtual planning sessions so that we will be ready when the pandemic allows us to get back at it. We have especially been busy building a robust social media presence. You may have been seeing us on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. We hope this has helped you stay connected to the museum and provided some entertainment while sheltering at home. We have also created a whole new website with great information as well as ways to become a member and donate to the museum and the building campaign. You can purchase books and other items over the new website as well. Check it out, I think you will like it!

Like many other small businesses, the museum will survive this challenge and come out as strong as ever. One of the best ways you can help is by becoming a member and encouraging others to join as well. And please donate to the new museum. Your donation will be an investment in our community that you will be proud of for years to come.

Thank you all for the support you have given the Museum of North Idaho. We look forward to seeing you when the doors swing open again!

Mike Dixon, Board President

Cash Donations

Jay Broderick (endowment)
Eric Holt
Sherman & Nancy Garner
Jerry & Pat Collins
Margaret Gates
J.P. & Janet Morbeck
Beatrice Johannessen
Donald & Maureen Martin

Building Fund Donations Since January

Up to \$100

Sally Ellingsen
Mary Vigil
Jessica Mahuron
Jeffery Samson
Courtney Beebe
Doreen Dixon
Glenn & Bonnie Sentman
Mae Clark
Jerry Jones
Ray & Kim Fossum
Lois Bates
James Allen

\$100 to \$900

Doug & Dorothy Schedler
John Herreld
James Schramm
Ed & Tina Hood
Roger & Irene Smith
Rod Schobert
Joe & Diane Dahlheim
Kenneth & Merry Ruth Dingman
Peter & Delores Luttrupp
IHOP (eating out)
Mark & Laurie Beebe
Marty & Julie Westbrook
William & Julie Gibbs

\$1000 to \$9,999

Don Pischner
Victor Harris

Richard & Judith Sheldon
Network For Good

\$50,000

Anonymous

Shop and Support

Please sign up with the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program and Amazon Smiles. Signing up with these programs to benefit the Museum. They will donate a percentage of the purchase price of eligible products to the Museum.

New Member Benefit

The Museum of North Idaho is a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM). With your \$150 or more level membership you will receive a membership card that will provide free admission to over 1,000 institutions throughout North America and worldwide. The number of people allowed in will depend on the institution you visit. We recommend you check the NARM website of the institution you plan to visit or call in advance to find out what benefits they offer.

Computer Wanted

We need a Windows XP or higher computer, monitor and keyboard for the public to use in the lobby. Please contact Dorothy at 208-664-3448 or email: dd@museumni.org.

Volunteers Needed

We hope to open June 2 and need volunteers to work in the Museum Store. Knowledge of the region's history is not necessary. You can work from one day a week or on call as you are available. Volunteers on Saturdays are especially needed. Please call Dorothy Tues. through Sat. 9-5 at 208-664-3448 or dd@museumni.org.



Refinished floor at the Chapel.

Chapel Floor

Crist and Sons Painting put a natural finish on the Fort Sherman Chapel floor. The Idaho Heritage Trust funded \$5,000 toward the \$13,000 project. The Idaho Heritage Trust has funded several projects at the Chapel.

New Website

Visit the Museum's new website www.museumni.org

We received a Community Enhancement matching grant for \$990 from the Idaho State Historical Society for the website.

Thanks to Ed Bejarana at Zenith Exhibit and Jocelyn Whitfield-Babcock for the new mobile friendly website.

Pandemic Update

These are certainly historic times. Who would have ever thought we would be in this situation? I have opened the Museum doors every April for nearly 38 years but this year we remain closed. Volunteers Deb Mitchell, Angie Conrow, Cindy Pischner Raynor, Crystal DeCell, Linda Kincaid and Karen DeSeve worked on the feature lobby exhibit *Rightfully Hers: Finding Equality In A Man's World*. We completed the research for the exhibit which explores women in the Coeur d'Alene region who laid the groundwork for women's rights leading into the mid-20th century, expanding the boundaries of the traditional gender roles.

It appeared the exhibit and Museum Store would be ready ahead of opening; then the stay at home order was announced and physically putting up the exhibit and store came to a halt. Fortunately, Karen finished the window exhibit featuring donated artifacts from the last year and I finished putting up the feature

exhibit. We are planning to open around June 2 and I hope you will visit the Museum at 115 NW Boulevard. Members are admitted free. Free parking validation for the lot next to the Museum.

The annual meeting was canceled and plans are to reschedule.

Robert and I are in the office and available by phone or email. We have been working with Development Director Jocelyn Whitfield-Babcock, volunteer Deb Mitchell and board member Julie Gibbs to create more channels to communicate with the community digitally. Deb and Heather Callahan continue to engage history enthusiasts on various Facebook pages, including daily posts to our page at <https://www.facebook.com/MuseumofNorthIdaho/>.

Artifact Donations Since November

Justin Cottrell: Political banner for William Taft for President, 1909. We have a photo with Taft and Mayor Hamilton on the train in front of the Hotel Idaho with this banner on the Hotel.

Bill Myrhang: Clock from Spencer's Jewelry (Kessel's), post cards.

Barbara Parker: Senior Review Newspapers, slides and photos.

Stanley Desjardins: Post cards, brown bottles marked Fort Sherman.

Heidi Paul (Great granddaughter of J.C. White): photos around Coeur d'Alene circa 1950.

Ron Roizen: Books.

Curt Nelson: Insulator from the Avista (WWP) power line built in about 1903.

Son Silbaugh (Syd Albright): Garden cultivating hand tool.

Helen Johnson: Typewriter used by Kootenai County Treasurer Florence Nichols in the 1950s.

Thomas Kerl Book

Local author Steve McCrea's book *Silencing Thomas Kerl: The Espionage Act of 1917 and the War Against Dissent* is available in the Museum Store for \$12.95. Call to pick up a copy or come in after we reopen.

This recounting of one man's life demonstrates how easily individual rights can be suppressed by the government. It gives insight into the reason the US became involved in the war and how Federal propaganda efforts reached all levels of society. Kerl lived in Coeur d'Alene at 721 W. Lakeshore.

Memorials

Remember friends and loved ones with a memorial donation to the Museum's Endowment Fund. Or just make a donation to the endowment.

- For Dianne Higgins from Michelle Franz
- For Lyle Ekness, Michael Reagan and Tobey Wilins from Marjorie Chadderdon
- For Larry W. Adams from Alice Adams
- For Bruce Lesterberg from John & Teresa Baillie

You can send the donation to us or deposit it directly to the Idaho Community Foundation at www.idcomfdn.org then type in Museum of North Idaho. Endowment donations ensure the future of our history.

If the donation is for a memorial please include the address of the family member you would like us to notify.



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Get on Board!

Send in Your Membership

- Friend of History* \$500
- Georgie Oakes* \$100+
- Idaho* \$100
- Flyer* \$50
- Amelia Wheaton* \$25

Make An Additional Donation To A Special Fund

- Memorial/Endowment \$ _____
- Building Fund \$ _____
- Chapel \$ _____
- Total enclosed \$ _____**

Membership Benefits Include: **Free admission to the Museum**
***10% off in the Museum Store * Quarterly Newsletter**

Please check your mailing label for your membership renewal date.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Secondary Addr. _____

Museum of North Idaho * PO Box 812 * Cd'A, ID 83816-0812

To pay with credit card call 208-664-3448 or go to www.museumni.org

Please add dd@museumni.org to your email contact list

Museum of North Idaho

Our mission is to collect, preserve and interpret the history of the Coeur d'Alene Region to foster appreciation of the area's heritage.

Board of Directors

- President Mike Dixon
- Vice President Julie Gibbs
- Secretary Courtney Beebe
- Treasurer Tom Richards
- Leanne Campbell, Steve Towles,
- Gail Hanninen, Dick Sheldon

Staff

- Dorothy Dahlgren, Director
- Robert Singletary, Program & Marketing Director
- Jocelyn Whitfield-Babcock, Development Officer
- Lisa Hunt, Bookkeeper

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The Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and qualifies for the Idaho income tax credit for contributions to educational institutions and museums (the Idaho State Educational Tax Credit), in addition to the usual charitable deduction. Consult your accountant.