We thought it would be fun on this 50th anniversary of the Museum of North Idaho to look at what was going on in our region around that time. We are featuring excerpts from “Fun in the Idaho Panhandle”, an annual regional guide published by George Erickson “with the aim of the publisher to present an impartial story about all of North Idaho which offers so many fine recreational and industrial advantages.” George published the first magazine in 1959 with each following one featuring Miss Coeur d’Alene on the cover until the 1971-72 edition when Elliott and Nadine Marks published the magazine. Dick and Skip Kuck took over the magazine for the 1972-73 edition and changed the name to “North Idaho Fun Guide” in 1975. They sold the magazine in 1996. The magazine lives on today as the “Guide to North Idaho”. This information is taken from the 1967, 1968 and 1969 magazines.

50 Years Ago

Lumbering Is Northern Idaho’s No. 1 Industry

Idaho is one of the largest lumber-producing states in the nation. It is famous for the fine quality of its products and the precision manufacturing standards which provide such uniformity in the finished lumber. In the Coeur d’Alene area alone, the industry employs about 12,000 people with a payroll of around $17.5 million. Lumbering in Idaho is second only to agriculture in dollar volume. In northern Idaho it is the No. 1 industry, with mining second.

Potlatch, Inc. is one of the largest mills and currently employs about 265 people at the Coeur d’Alene plant and the payroll is in excess of $1,700,000 annually. Most of the company’s 440,000 acres of timberland is in northern Idaho, which supports its mill operations and is open to the public for outdoor recreational use.
Road Construction Adds Impetus To Healthy Growth of N. Idaho

Millions of dollars worth of highway construction has continued to play a major part in the economy of northern Idaho the past year, with considerable new work throughout the five counties.

Freeway work in the mining region around Osburn has progressed at a fantastic rate and is almost a year ahead of schedule. It will be opened late this summer or early fall, with the new route circling around the north edge of Osburn.

The most costly phase of the entire freeway through Idaho will be the 4,000 feet of continuous overhead structure through Wallace. Cost of this phase, tentatively scheduled for 1972, is estimated at $13 million.

Coeur d'Alene Public Golf Course

Coeur d'Alene Public Golf Course was completed in 1963 at a cost of about $80,000. Facilities include a pro shop, coffee shop, showers, lockers, and club storage lockers.

Visitors are welcome to enjoy the new clubhouse and play on the fine 18-hole championship course two miles west of the city just off U.S. Hwy 10. The course was developed by a group of civic-minded men and a non-profit corporation and is now in its tenth season of play with all greens in excellent condition.
floor space designed for 89 residents at a cost of $380,000. Facilities include a huge stainless steel-equipped kitchen, cheerful dining room, craft room and modern laundry. All the rooms have a view of the nicely landscaped grounds.

The two-story General Telephone Toll Center office building will have 30,000 square feet of floor space and be located on a 10-acre tract between Government Way and Lincoln Way, north of the State Highway District offices. The facility is scheduled to go into service in June 1970. This is part of $1.3 million expansion and improvement program budgeted by Gen-Tel in the Coeur d’Alene district during 1968. Of this sum, about $271,000 is for new microwave and control office equipment and another $140,000 is earmarked for new lines and cables. The company invested about $70,000 remodeling and installing new equipment at the central office at Seventh and Wallace.

The Coeur d’Alene Turf Club Sponsors 27 Days of Horse Racing This Summer

The Coeur d’Alene Turf Club’s second season of horse racing at the Kootenai County fairgrounds was open from late May to mid-August, 1968. A new 10-stall starting gate had been installed along with 3,000 yards of topsoil making a four-inch cushion for the weekend sport that included pari-mutuel betting. The 1967 season had drawn about 60,000 people whose betting produced $64,279, the majority of which went to the state’s school endowment fund.

St. Maries Federal Building

The $863,000 brick structure is built on a hillside overlooking the business district; the north end is three stories high. The building embraces 8,175 square feet of floor space to house a new post office, St. Joe National Forest headquarters and other federal agencies. It includes a radiation fallout shelter and occupies an entire block east of the Benewah County Court House.

City of Hayden

City of Hayden embraces the thriving business district with a surrounding residential area adjoining U.S. Hwy 95, four miles north of Coeur d’Alene and one and a half miles west of Hayden Lake. You go through here on the way to the lake or to the Canadian border. Incorporated in 1960, the census recorded a population of 901. Now it is estimated at 1,000. The “City of Hayden Lake” is incorporated separately and includes the country club area and many of the lake homes along the west shore. It has a summer-time population ranging from 500 to 1,000.

Hayden has a new city hall and a fine volunteer fire department. It has an excellent grade school with enrollment of about 440 pupils. The post office serves two rural routes with 2,255 patrons. There is a community hall for business and social gatherings as well as two churches.

At present the business district includes about 50 firms, among them restaurants, a variety store, several service stations, grocery, drug and hardware stores, taverns, a

Horse racing at the fairgrounds, 1970. Rec-8-29

St. Maries’ Federal Building under construction at 222 S. 7th St. 1968. STM-3-17
building supply firm, feed store, coin-operated laundry, beauty parlors, barber shops and other service establishments. There are several motels along the highway as well as a new medical and dental clinic and a state liquor dispensary. A new bank is now under construction.

Their very active Chamber of Commerce boasts a membership of about 100. One of its recent projects was installing 38 new street signs. The Chamber sponsors an annual queen contest and lends a helpful hand in supporting a Little League Baseball team and developing a community park. It also sponsors an annual barbecue and the tourist information booth.

**Welcome to Post Falls: The City of the Future**

Post Falls is the fastest-growing community in North Idaho, having grown from 610 in 1940, to 1,069 in 1950, and to 1,983 in the 1960 census. Many new homes have been constructed since then, and the population in 1968 is believed to be well in excess of 2,000.

Post Falls’ residents are progressive. Their school has kept pace with the growth,
plant scheduled to build a home a day. Georgia-Pacific employs about 100 at the sawmill and chip plant. They have about 175 plants in 32 states and 3 foreign countries and, in 1967, sales were nearly one billion dollars. Boise Cascade currently employs about 50 at their new home construction plant, but they expect to double this in 1970. They have similar plants at Pocatello and Meridian, Idaho, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Post Falls has quietly proceeded to expand its economy in recent years.

**Clare-Pendar Electronic Switches Attain World Wide Reputation**

Clare-Pendar, electronic switch and indicator manufacturer located between Coeur d’Alene and Post Falls, added 8,000 sq. ft. of floor space with a $100,000 expansion. More than 300 employees worked in a “clean room” assembling tiny precision parts under hospital operating room antiseptic conditions. Their products usage was expanding beyond radio, television and communications to include N.A.S.A., military and aircraft applications.

Pendar came to Coeur d’Alene from Los Angeles employing 25 people in 1963. They moved into an “especially-designed” plant in Post Falls in May 1965. Merging with C.P. Clare & Company from Chicago in 1966, they moved into the international market.

**Spirit Lake, A Fine Family Lake, Is A Cool Spot For Rainbow Trout**

As in most of the lakes, fishing is best in the spring and fall but sunfish, perch and large-mouth bass can be caught almost any time. The early fishermen get the best rainbow and cutthroat trout. Brickel Creek, at the west end of the lake, is one of the better trout streams in the area early in the year.

Fishing for blueback (silvers or landlocked salmon) has been especially good in recent years and they run extra-large. Trolling, spinning, fly or bait fishing are popular.

One of the resorts, Sedlmayer’s, serves fine foods in a cozy dining room and cocktail lounge overlooking the lake.

The little City of Spirit Lake adjoins State Hwy 41, just a half mile northeast of the lake. A drug store, grocery stores, hardware and state liquor store cater to the needs of residents and visitors.

Spirit Lake has a public library with about 4,000 volumes. It is gradually expanding through the efforts of the Spirit Lake Community Club which raised $200 through a rummage and bake sale in May. The library is located in the old Catholic Church on the north side of Hwy 41 and is open Thursday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
From the Board President

Summer is in full swing and we are having fun celebrating the Museum of North Idaho’s golden anniversary!

Over the last 50 years, the Museum’s mission has been to collect, preserve and interpret the history of the Coeur d’Alene Region and to foster appreciation of the area’s heritage. Each artifact we collect and preserve tells a story to help us interpret its role in our local heritage. These fascinating stories make history come alive!

The Museum hosted an open house on Friday evening, June 8, and it was a tremendous opportunity to hear many stories first hand. The Museum buzzed with energy as over 200 visitors toured the exhibit hall. I heard amazing personal stories about some of the artifacts and entertaining tales from members of families who have lived in our community for multiple generations. It was also fun talking to children about their impressions of the artifacts. One young history buff excitedly exclaimed her favorite exhibit was the “big ship’s wheel” from the steamboat Flyer.

Seeing the enthusiasm for history among visitors of all ages is rewarding as we work to ensure the Museum’s success for the next 50 years. The staff and Board of Directors are committed to the Museum’s mission so today’s young history buffs and future generations may continue to enjoy learning about our rich heritage.

A high priority for the staff and Board of Directors continues to be a new museum building. As a first step, we plan to raise funds to secure a location. Once a location is acquired, we will initiate a capital campaign and finalize plans for a new facility. Widespread community support for our 50th anniversary celebration is helping us to reach our goal.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank all of our members and supporters who are so important to our current and future success. We look forward to seeing you at future Museum events.

Board Position Open

Newly elected Board Member Chip Sitton took a job in Boise and resigned his position. The nominating committee is seeking applicants for his position. The appointment would last until the April election. Please consider serving on the Museum’s Board of Directors. Contact Dorothy Dahlgren 208-664-3448 or visit www.museumni.org for more information.

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Artifact Donations Since May

Mike Raymond: Coeur d’Alene Indian tools, Fort Sherman dump finds, blueprints and maps.
Sheila Weber: WWII Navy whites with hat, and lab coat.
Chris Rowan: Three scrapbooks
1934 to 1940 created by Miriam (Baker) Burroughs.

Tom Richards: Jackets from the 60th anniversary of Atlas Building Center, menus and brochures from the Snake Pit/Enaville Resort.

Shelley Dumas from the Preston & Copeman estates: Photos of the Coeur d’Alene Region.

Tanden Launder (Marlo Faulkner): Finney Transportation photos, brochures, clippings and posters.

**Students Help Out**

University students Katherine Hill, Adelle Kincel and Angie Conrow volunteered this summer to photograph and inventory historic hats. Angie has also been working with the archives. The next project will be to photograph and inventory over 50 dolls in the Museum’s collection.

Volunteer Katherine Hill in the Museum’s textile storage room.

**Miss Bardahl Coming to Museum**

August 24 and 25 from 9 am to 6 pm, the Museum hosts a special anniversary visit to Coeur d’Alene by the 1958 Miss Bardahl unlimited hydroplane. The vintage raceboat will be on the museum grounds as part of a special celebration of the 60th anniversary of Coeur d’Alene’s first Diamond Cup and the building of the Miss Bardahl hull, and the Museum’s 50th Anniversary.

The 1958 Diamond Cup was Miss Bardahl’s second race. The boat has been completely restored and is now part of the vintage hydroplane collection of the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum in Kent, WA. A highlight of the visit will be the “dry firing” (on land) of the boating’s 3000 h.p. Allison aircraft engine several times during the visit.

Accompanying the Miss Bardahl will be David Williams, executive director of the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum and author of *A Race To Freedom: The Mira Slovak Story*. When not firing up the engine, Williams will be signing copies of his book for sale.

Stephen Shepperd, author of *Hydromania: A History of the Diamond Cup* will be on hand. His book will be on sale along with hydroplane DVDs.

The event is part of the year-long 50th anniversary celebration and highlights the museum’s goal to preserve local history for future generations. It will also be in conjunction with filming of what is hoped will be an episode of Idaho Public Television’s anthology series “Idaho Experience” concerning the visit of the Miss Bardahl to Coeur d’Alene and the Lake City’s rich history of boat racing.

**Hydro Movie a Success**

On June 27 the films “Madison” and a special documentary short film “The Roaring Giants” were presented as a hydroplane history double feature fundraiser for the Museum. 153 tickets were sold for the event raising about $2,600 for the building fund. Many people from the hydroplane scene attended and enjoyed the event including 1966 Diamond Cup Commodore Tom Richards, his brother John and grandson Connor. Barry and Denise, the son and daughter of 1960 Diamond Cup winner Dallas Sartz, also attended. David Williams and Steve Shepperd signed books. Thanks to Doug Miller and Steve Shepperd for organizing the event, Nickel’s Worth for the great publicity and Hayden Discount Cinema Manager Mike Lehosit for hosting the event.
Get on Board!

Send in Your Membership

☐  Friend of History  $500
☐  Georgie Oakes  $100+
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Make An Additional Donation To A Special Fund

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Membership Benefits Include: Free admission to the Museum
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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.

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