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# COULEE CORRIDOR BYWAY BEAT

Volume 2. Issue 2

Coulee Corridor Consortium – Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway April 2013

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## ***The Byway Behind the Scenery***

By Tim Alling, CCC Chair

With the installation of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway ó North Gateway Sign near Omak on State Route 155 came the completion of the Coulee Corridor Consortium's 2003 National Scenic Byways Grant. The Gateway signs installations at Othello and Omak were one of the top goals for the Coulee Corridor Consortium in 2011 and 2012. The CCC thanks all of the volunteers and partners and other agencies for their work in helping us complete these tasks.

Now as the CCC moves through the first quarter of 2013 the group has been focusing its attention and efforts on another NSB Grant approved in 2005. The organization has until 2015 to complete all its elements. Coordinating with seven cities to design and install Community Kiosks and another 45 Coulee Corridor NSB Spur and Loop way-finding signs are two of the top priorities. The 2005 NSB Grant Committee has met and is taking action to ensure that the remaining tasks are prioritized, that structures are designed properly in working with the engineering contractor Larry Julius of the firm, Gray & Osborne and with the Washington State Department of Transportation. Materials are being purchased and guidelines for communities to follow in assembling information for the kiosks are being assembled.

The CCC Marketing Committee is making progress in establishing a viable Community Outreach program/öDog & Pony Showö presentation(s) that will be taken to officials and the public to educate our Byway Communities about the value of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway.

## ***Coulee Corridor NSB Tracks Portion of Ice Age Floods Geologic Trail***

By Jim Pritchard, Ice Age Floods Institute

The Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway (CC NSB) follows the most spectacular segment of the newly designated Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail (IAFNGT) between Grand Coulee and Othello.. However, the IAFNGT route originates at Missoula, Montana follows State Highway 200, along the Clark Fork River, crosses the north Idaho panhandle, and enters the Spokane area in eastern Washington. Though there are numerous ice age flood features in between Spokane and Grand Coulee, the most awe inspiring portion of the route is along the Grand Coulee (which coincides with much of the CC NSB). Probably the best panorama is located at Dry Falls, though there are also prolific examples of unusual and unique erosional and depositional features associated with the floods all along the corridor south to Othello and beyond. Outside the CC NSB, there are flood features that can be tracked all the way to the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River which incidentally marks the end of the Ice Age Floods Geologic Trail. The Trail may be entered or exited at any point. Very few folks see it all in one trip. Brochures covering one or both the Coulee Corridor and the Ice Age Floods are available.

***Behind the Scenery Continued from page 1***

The CCC Executive Board is working with our webmaster to re-launch the Coulee Corridor Consortium website with more current and regular updates.

The Executive Board is continually looking for new ideas to help explain features along the byway. One idea that has been proposed is an educational program for school age kids-adults. Using the Ice Age Floods Story along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway as its focus, the program would provide clues to explaining each Flood Scene Investigation. Caps, t-shirts, and other prizes could be awarded to Flood Scene Investigators (FSI). Other ideas are sought so bring them to our monthly meetings, email the board, or call us on our trac phone at (509) 634-1608.

***Editor's Note: Coulee Corridor Consortium Meetings are held Monthly throughout the Region***

**Coulee Corridor Holds Regular Meetings**

The public is invited to attend any of these Friday lunch time events to find out what is happening and to participate in events and activities.

March 15..Mama Yum Yum, 356 Basin St SW, Ephrata

April 19í í ..Koala Grill, 914 Koala Ave, Omak

May 17í í í Senior Center, 755 N 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Othello

June 21í í í .Papa's Casino, 1165 N Stratford Road, Moses Lake

***Editor's Note: The following descriptions are excerpts from the 2011 publication by Mark Amara called People and Places of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway. Pamphlets are available from the Coulee Corridor Consortium, our website [www.couleecorridor.com](http://www.couleecorridor.com), through Chambers of Commerce and at other events***

***Ephrata (Grant County) State Highway 28***

The area around Ephrata was originally home to the Columbia (Sinkiuse) tribe when it was known as Tukta-hyos-pum. Known locally as Beezley Springs after horse rancher Frank Beezley, it became the Great Northern Railroad's Station 11 in 1892 and finally "Ephrata" in 1901. According to local lore, a railroad worker thought he saw similarities to agricultural landscapes around the Holy Lands in the Middle East and named it Ephrata. The town was incorporated in 1909, became the Grant County seat and has been a transportation hub for livestock, fruit and other crops, by wagon, rail, truck and air travel. Ephrata served many people working on the Grand Coulee Dam project in the 1930s, was a training base for the Army Air Corp in the 1940s, and provides offices to the Bureau of Reclamation which has administered the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project since the 1950s.

***Grant County Courthouse (First & C Streets)***

Courthouse construction was started in 1917 and completed in 1918. The attached Annex building was built in 1957 while the Law and Justice Building was built in 1984. The courthouse has been heated with coal, oil, hot water, and electricity. A geothermal 2000' deep drilled well (#10), located 1 ¼ miles north of the courthouse, was the source of 82-88 degree F water, which provided radiant heat from 1987-2004. In 1975, the Courthouse was added to National Register for Historic Places.

Grant County Courthouse



**Coulee City (Grant County) U.S. 2**

Philip McIntee is named for the oldest town in Grant County. Known as McIntee's Crossing until 1890, it was the only place along the Grand Coulee where the steep basalt rock cliffs were passable, coincided with a watering hole on a portion of the Caribou Cattle Trail and was a stagecoach stop on the Waterville-Spokane Wagon Road. The first bank, Security State Bank which opened in 1902 and closed in 1921 is now occupied by the Coulee City Hall. Fires destroyed the Hotel Coulee in 1929, the theatre, and the wooden grain elevators in 1934. The town name was changed to Coulee City in 1937.

**Pioneer Cemetery (From U. S. 2, turn west on 37 NE and proceed 2/10 mile on left)**

The pioneer cemetery is approximately 2 miles north of Coulee City. Philip McIntee, Coulee City's first settler, is among the residents buried there.



McIntee Gravestone at Pioneer Cemetery

**Byway Beat Briefs**

To date, funding has been sought/obtained through Grant County Tourism and many cities along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway who have agreed or are considering whether to provide tourism promotion dollars to help advertise the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway in 2013.

***The North Sign Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway Ribbon Cutting Ceremony***

is scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2013. The dedication begins at 10:30 AM at the sign along SR 155 south of Omak. Dignitaries and the public are invited to attend and also to participate in the social event afterwards where a special cake will be carved up at Koala Grill in Omak.

***Corridor Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup***

The public and CCC members are invited to participate in the first of two (biannual) planned Adopt-A-Highway trash cleanup sessions at the Coulee Corridor Consortium's newly designated location on SR 17. Mark your calendar for 1PM Saturday, April 20 which is when the cleanup begins. Vehicles may park at the Lake Lenore Caves/Lake Lenore parking turn outs and pick up trash between MP 84-85 along State Highway 17. Hard hats, colorful vests, and bags will be provided.

## ***Quilter Trail Started Along Corridor***

Quilters are making their mark on the Coulee Corridor. The first quilted design was installed on the side of a wood barn in Coulee City. This particular pattern called "Quadra Foilö" was created and painted by long time quilter, Wendy Heiberg while her husband, City of Coulee City Mayor, Rick Heiberg, built the 40x 40 weathered wood block structure. The feature may be viewed at 104 S. Main, Coulee City.

If there is sufficient interest, the plan is for others to develop designs and place them on garages or barns throughout the Coulee Corridor as part of a Quilters Trail, similar to what is being done in Kittitas County and in other states. A brief history of the design or quilter may accompany the patterns and may offer another way to promote activities along the Corridor. Anyone interested in working on quilts on one or more parts of the trail is urged to contact the Coulee Corridor at [www.couleecorridor.com](http://www.couleecorridor.com) or call (509) 634-1608 for details or comments. More information will be released as it becomes available.



## ***Dry Falls Visitors Center 2013 Opens***

By Denis Felton, Coulee Area State Parks  
Manager

I am excited to announce that the Dry Falls Visitor Center (along State Highway 17 of the Coulee Corridor south of Coulee City) officially re-opened to the public on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The Center is open Friday through Tuesday from 9AM to 4PM until April 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. From April 16<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the Center is open 7 days a week from 9AM to 5:30PM.

The Park is proud to announce that Chris McCart is leading the day-to-day operations of the Center and all the interpretive duties of the Coulee Area State Parks as our Interpretive Specialist. Chris was born and raised in eastern Washington and has already spent countless hours exploring the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway.

McCart's knowledge of the local history and wildlife help(ed) him conduct Junior Ranger and interpretive programs on topics including shrub-steppe ecology, geology, Grand Coulee Dam history and through nature hikes. McCart has a B.A. in Geography/Environmental Studies and a B.S. in Social Sciences from Central Washington University. Prior to this position, he served as the Dry Falls Visitor Center Interpretive Assistant 2011-2012. Before coming to Dry Falls, Chris was an Interpretive Intern at Lake Easton State Park and worked for the Grant County P.U.D. in their lands and recreation department. In his spare time, Chris enjoys bird hunting, fishing and exploring historic sites throughout the Columbia



**Grand Coulee Dam Guided Tours;** for tour times contact the Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center at (509) 633-9265 9AM-5PM 7 days per week, starting in April í Grand Coulee Dam

**Triple Fish Challenge Fishing Derby,** April 6-7, 2013. Call the Chamber of Commerce at (509) 633-3074 or call Coulee Playland Resort at (509) 633-2671í ..Electric City

**Northwest Bass Fishing Tournament,** April 13, 2013, (509) 633-2671 at Coulee Playland Resortí í .. Electric City

**Junior Rodeo,** Nespelem Fairgrounds, April 19, 2013í í í í í ..Nespelem

**Memorial Day Celebrations:** Last Stand Rodeo Bullarama May 24 evening; Cow Pie Jog May 25 morning; Cowboy Breakfast May 25 morning, and Last Stand Rodeo May 25 evening; Call 509-632-5331 for information í í í í í ..Coulee City

**Spring Festival Triathlon and Duathlon,** Montlake Park, May 27, 2013í í Moses Lake <http://www.americantowns.com/wa/moseslake/events/spring-festival-triathlon-and-duathlon-2013-05-27-active>.

**Ephrata Farmers Market,** Rock Point Plaza, Saturdays, June-Octoberí í Ephrata <http://www.americantowns.com/wa/ephrata/organization/ephrata-farmers-market>.

**Othello Farmers Market,** Saturdays, June ó Octoberí í í í í í í í ..Othello [http://www.othello-wa.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=71](http://www.othello-wa.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=42&Itemid=71).

**Soap Lake Powwow,** June 7-9, 2013í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ..Soap Lake <http://www.soaplakeforlocals.com/soaplakepowwow.html>.

**Run into Summer 5K & 12K .**Saturday, June 15, 2013í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í Soap Lake See details at <http://www.ulbfit.com/#!race-events>

**Hydroplane Regatta,** June 15-16, 2013í í í ..Soap Lake

**Bed Ride,** 7:30PM, Friday, June 28, 2013. Masquers Theater. World Premiere of this comedy by Matthew Weaverí í í í ..Soap Lake <http://www.soaplakeforlocals.com/thearts/masquerstheater.html>

**Not Too Stinkin' Hot to Run 5K & 10 Miler,** July 13, 2013í í í í í í ..Soap Lake

**Omak Stampede and World Famous Suicide Race,** August 8-11, 2013í í Omak [http://www.omakstampede.org/?page=stampede\\_schedule](http://www.omakstampede.org/?page=stampede_schedule).

**Fall Festival and Columbia Basin Junior Livestock Show,** September 12-14, 2013í Connell Call (509) 430-1398 or [connellfallfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:connellfallfestival@yahoo.com) for information

**Wine and Brew Festival,** November 9, 2013í í í í í í í í ..Connell

**Christmas Parade of Lights,** December 8, 2013í í í í í í í í ..Coulee City

Coulee Corridor Consortium Officers

Tim Alling í í Chair

Mark Amara í .1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Ken Caylorí . 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Birdie Hensleyí Secretary

Barb Caylorí Treasurer

Get Involved With Coulee Corridor Consortium Committees:

National Scenic Byways

Marketing

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Website Updates

Byway Beat Editors: Mark Amara and Birdie Hensley

Contact the Coulee Corridor at [www.couleecorridor.com](http://www.couleecorridor.com) or call (509) 634-1608

*Cut here and return with your membership materials*

**The Coulee Corridor Consortium would like your help and is asking that people consider becoming 2013 members of the organization which is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization with tax exempt status. Benefits of membership include: supporting the Coulee Corridor Consortium, keeping abreast of and participating in new activities and events sponsored by the Consortium along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway, opportunity to help leadership by focusing positive attention on the corridor, participation in Big Event fundraiser each year, be placed on mailing list for quarterly newsletter, and receiving increased member visibility on the Coulee Corridor website.**

- \$15.00 Individual Membership Fee
- \$25.00 Family Membership Fee
- \$50.00 Business, Non-Profit, or Other Membership Fee
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City; \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Web page listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Send applications and checks to Coulee Corridor Consortium, PO Box 123 Grand Coulee, WA 99133