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# COULEE CORRIDOR BYWAY BEAT

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Coulee Corridor Consortium – Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway August 2014

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## ***New Exhibits Dedicated at Dry Falls Interpretive Center***

*Contributed by Chris McCart, Interpretive Specialist,  
Dry Falls Interpretive Center*

New exhibits were dedicated and replaced outdated descriptive displays at Dry Falls. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in late June 2014 attended by a number of dignitaries.

The event coincided with the annual Flood Fest activities held at Dry Falls the same weekend which included vendor displays, food booths, tours and hikes. Flood Fest had one of the highest turnouts ever with an estimated 600-800 people attending the festivities on Saturday.



Barb Caylor and Tim Alling (not pictured), staffed the Coulee Corridor Consortium's booth promoting activities along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway between Omak and Connell. The booth was very popular and helped educate visitors to the spectacular geology in the Grand Coulee. Other organizations with booths included Audubon, Ice Age Floods Institute, Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Park Service.

Ryan Karlson, Washington State Parks, Interpretive Program Manager was in charge of creating the new interpretive panels with the help of various experts.

Experts who helped make it what it is included geologists Bruce Bjornstad and Nick Zentner, Dan Foster, NPS, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Even Mark Amara critiqued the displays and made suggestions to improve their accuracy. The project took a total of two years (gathering information, developing the displays, and revising them, etc.) before the final panels were installed before the interpretive center opened in March 2014. The new panels provide the latest scientific knowledge and describe the physical evidence of the Missoula Floods as well as highlighting some of the early history of the region with an emphasis on Native American influences. Concepts described include climatic changes, identified through cooling and warming trends, so visitors can understand how ice ages work.

The dedication went well with short speeches given by Denis Felton, Coulee Corridor State Parks Area Manager; Ryan Karlson, Interpretive Program Manager; Steve Milner, State Parks Commissioner; Don Hoch, Director of State Parks. Immediately after the speeches there was a ribbon cutting ceremony.



In photo (L to R) Steve Milner; Dan Foster, National Park Service; Ryan Karlson; Denis Felton; Don Hoch.

## Community Kiosks -A Work in Progress

By Mark Amara

In late June 2014, the 2005 Grant Committee (Denis Felton, Tim Ailing, Ken and Barb Caylor, Birdie Hensley, Jim Pritchard, and Mark Amara) met Melanie Pierson, Community Kiosk Graphic Designer of Conservation By Design, Silver City, NM who had come to see first-hand, the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway and to make recommendations on kiosk development. After discussing kiosk parameters, most of the committee escorted Pierson on a guided tour of the Coulee Corridor NSB between Coulee Dam and Othello where sights were pointed out, confirmed kiosk locations were viewed, and many potential kiosk pictures were snapped.



Denis Felton describes Grand Coulee features



From L to R: Birdie Hensley, Ken Caylor, Denis Felton, Melanie Pierson, Barb Caylor and Mark Amara, not pictured, discuss kiosk locations.

## Soap Lake Students Learn About Geological History

By Jonathan Hartman, Site Coordinator, 21 Century Program, Soap Lake Middle/High School



Students enrolled in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program, set off on a field trip to Dry Falls Visitor's Center in April. "Most of the kids in our group had never been to see Dry Falls, or even heard of it before," said Jonathan Hartman, Site Coordinator. "Many of these students never get the opportunity to see firsthand what lies to the north of their neighborhoods." Hartman oversees the 21<sup>st</sup> Century after school program at Soap Lake Middle/High School.

Students were very impressed as they gazed at the massive geological wonder. After watching a video about the history of the Missoula Floods, Park Interpretive Specialist Chris McCart gave students an interactive tour of the newly renovated Dry Falls Visitor Center. After a brief Question & Answer session, students peered out the giant window to admire the spectacular view of the Grand Coulee and the Dry Falls panorama. Afterwards, students mingled with each other and enjoyed ice cream. "The trip was a complete success. I look forward to bringing more students to this historic place in the future," Hartman said.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century program is financed by a 5-year grant from the Department of Education. The grant also covers Soap Lake Elementary, and three Elementary schools in nearby Ephrata. Travel was made possible with a donation from the Parents For Kids group of Soap Lake.

## **Mini Geo Tour Highlights Dry Falls**

Coulee Corridor Consortium 1st Vice Chair, Mark Amara, led a group of nine USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Conservation District conservation planner professionals from Alaska and Washington on a car tour to Dry Falls one June (2014) evening.

Amara described the finer points of the stratigraphy of the area including the Columbia River basalts and the Missoula floods. The lava flow eruptions which resulted in the accumulation of thousands of feet of basalt lava flows were described and physical evidences in the landscape were pointed out. At and around Dry Falls, the extraordinary landscape features were explained. Explanations centered on discussing the source of the floods, paths, ages, physical evidence and reference to geologist, J Harlen Bretz, who introduced the flood theory. The extraordinary depositional and erosional features and episodes associated with the catastrophic Missoula Floods which swept through the area were explained along with reference to outside interpretive panels that further highlighted the fantastic panorama of the area. A question and answer period followed.



**Jenifer Coleson, (left) and Ernie Holt (center) listen as Mark Amara describes local geology of the area to NRCS and Conservation District planners from across Washington state and Alaska**

*Editor's Note: The relevance of the following designation is that the Coulee Corridor Consortium is considering adding Palouse Falls as an optional loop route along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway.*

## **Palouse Falls - State Waterfall**

*Paraphrased from the 2014/2015 Adams County Visitor's Guide, a publication of the Ritzville Adams County Journal*



In Spring 2014, in a place just outside the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway, history was made. Governor Jay Inslee signed House Bill 2119 which designated Palouse Falls (Whitman County) as the official waterfall of Washington state. The bill was drafted and presented by elementary age students from the Washtucna School District (Adams County). The town of Washtucna is located approximately 17 miles from Palouse Falls.

The project started as a civic project in the third through sixth grade classrooms of Washtucna teachers, Janet Camp and Amy Whipple. The teachers worked closely with state representative Joe Schmick who assisted the students with drafting the bill and described the process the bill would take before and when it became law. The bill was sponsored by Schmick and two other representatives. It went to the House Committee on Government Operations and Elections where it passed out of committee with a unanimous do-pass motion following testimony of six Washtucna School District students on January 29, 2014.



Subsequently, the bill passed both the Washington State House and Senate and Governor Inslee traveled to Palouse Falls on March 18, 2014 to sign the bill in front of the falls.

The falls are unique with its 198 foot high waterfall that drops off into a deep canyon, a part of the Channeled Scablands created by the Missoula Floods.

### **Five Locals Highlighted at Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center**

*By Roger Lucas, The Star Newspaper; Contributed by Birdie Hensley*

Biographies of five local women are highlighted at Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center. The reader boards are on display until September 2014.

Rosie the Riveter is highlighted in a quilt display at the Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center below The Grand Coulee Dam. Rosie the Riveter, the World War II icon, decorates a quilt created by Marlene Oddie, of the KISSed Quilt shop, Grand Coulee. The image has become a symbol for the celebration of women's contributions throughout the U. S. The "Rosie Bomb" quilt has won numerous quilting awards at national and regional levels.



Rosie the Riveter

Story boards feature information of the five local women, featured with a Rosie the Riveter Quilt, including Ida Bartells, Toby Levy, Lynda Nutt, Barbara Meyers and Roberta Hensley. The five have all made a number of contributions to the Grand Coulee Dam Area.

Ida Bartells, with husband Sid, purchased the Deppman Mill at Belvedere in 1940 only to see it burn. Ida served many years on the Grand

Coulee City Council, was active in forming the Grand Coulee Housing Company, getting businesses together to build houses on Roosevelt and Fortuyn and later built East Grand Coulee Heights.

Toby Levy was the first female engineer to work for the Bureau of Reclamation at Grand Coulee Dam. Levy came to the project in 1968 as a rotational engineer for the Third Powerplant. She was also an accomplished horsewoman with many national championships in the 1980s.



Nutt at the Pentagon

Lynda Nutt graduated from Grand Coulee Dam High School, worked as a computer programmer in Washington D.C., and returned to Grand Coulee in the 1970's, where she worked as the Staff Supervisor for the Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Arrival Center. In 1983 Lynda transferred to the Corps of Engineers as Park Ranger and retired as Water Safety Program Manager in 2012.



Barbara Meyer

Barbara Meyer, referred to as the "First Lady of Grand Coulee Dam", was active in the Red Cross, was the first board member of the Rotary Club and its first president and first to chair the Coulee Community Hospital board.

Roberta "Birdie" Hensley, a graduate of Edison Technical School, took her drafting skills to Grand Coulee Dam in 1967 to work on the Third Power plant and then on to Hoover Dam in 1987. Hensley returned to Grand Coulee in 1998 as a power plant operator retiring January 2000.

Birdie continues to be active in the community, having served on the Electric City Council, is a member of the Lions Club, Director of the Lions Sponsored Spring Canyon Cemetery, is on the board of directors of the Grand Coulee Dam Area Seniors and Coulee Corridor Consortium, is AARP Tax Aide Program for Seniors and low income individuals, and is involved in the founding of the Coulee Pioneer Museum.



**Birdie Hensley doing heavy lifting during her career**

## **Byway Beat Briefs**

### ***CCC Tackles E Washington Planners' Forum***

*Contributed by Ken and Barb Caylor*

On July 23, 2014, an elite panel of members from the Coulee Corridor Consortium made presentations at the Eastern Washington Planners' Forum held at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. The forum was put on by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Tim Alling, Coulee Corridor Consortium Chair, made a presentation on promoting values, education, and stimulating tourism through our distinctive and incredible scenic byways.

Ken Caylor, Coulee Corridor Consortium 2nd Vice Chair, talked about the preservation of our byways in city/county planning and the importance of tourism in every community. Caylor also spoke about coordinating scenic byway management plans with local government comprehensive plans.

Denis Felton, State Parks, talked about partnerships and how valuable they are for present and future success of byways. Felton discussed the value of past and present grants for projects along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway.

Roger Krug, past Economic Development Director for Adams County, gave a slide show of a proposed new loop to the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway. The proposed loop begins near Othello, includes Connell, winds its way on SR 260 & 261 to Kahlotus, Palouse Falls, and Washtucna, meets the Palouse Scenic Byway on SR 26, and loops north and west to Benge, Ralston, Lind and Warden.

Paul Mahre, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), spoke about WSDOT partnerships in working with byways on future grant monies available to help with access to byway features.

The planners group was appreciative of CCNSB accomplishments, proposals, and future endeavors.



**CCC panel members gear up for their talks (L to R: Denis Felton, Paul Mahre, Roger Krug, Tim Alling and Ken Caylor)**

***Kiosks Anyone?***

On June 24, 2014, CCC board members, Ken and Barb Caylor, met with the Warden City Council updating them on the Coulee Corridor improvements and offering an opportunity to be involved with the community kiosk project which is seeking locations up and down the byway. Also presented was a brief introduction to the future CCNSB loop from Warden to Lind, Ralston, Benge, Washtucna, Palouse Falls, Kahlotus, Connell and back toward Othello. The presentation was well received by the council even though no action was taken.

Any other communities located on the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway between Omak and Othello interested in participating with the Coulee Corridor Consortium to craft, display, and install community kiosks are urged to contact any one of the board members.

*Editor's Note: For the last several years the CCC has promoted the Coulee Corridor in American Road Magazine and through its website. A brief breakdown of stats collected this past quarter shows this avenue is a great way to highlight the area with the idea of potentially bringing people to see it.*

***American Road Stats for March-June 2014***

Coulee Corridor NSB Itinerary downloads: 4595

Clicks to homepage describing the Coulee Corridor and its features: 845

Link - <http://americanroadmagazine.com/>. Then go to Free Travel Info, Itineraries, and Pacific Coast and then download PDF Itinerary for the Coulee Corridor NSB

***Check out the Coulee Corridor*** web site at [www.couleecorridor.com](http://www.couleecorridor.com). Be a supporter and join the Coulee Corridor Consortium! Colorful Coulee Corridor pins and commemorative coins are for sale at the monthly meetings.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Adopt-A-Highway Trash Cleanup*** event near Lake Lenore is scheduled for Saturday September 27, 2014. Meet at the Lake Lenore parking lot near MP 85 on State Highway 17 at 1 PM.

***Articles for the next Byway Beat***

Submit articles to Birdie Hensley or Mark Amara by October 15, 2014.

***Newsletter Editors***

Mark Amara Birdie Hensley

***Cut here and return with your membership materials***

**The Coulee Corridor Consortium wants your help and is asking that people consider becoming 2014 members of the organization which is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization with tax exempt status. Benefits of organizational 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

Coulee Corridor Consortium Officers

Tim Alling .....Chair

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

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

Birdie Hensley...Secretary

Barb Caylor...Treasurer

Get Involved With Coulee Corridor Consortium Committees:

National Scenic Byways

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Contact the Coulee Corridor at [www.couleecorridor.com](http://www.couleecorridor.com)

[Or call \(509\) 634-1608](tel:5096341608)

CCC Monthly Meeting Schedule – No host lunch and regular meeting  
which starts at noon

Aug 15, 2014 - Coulee City, Dry Falls Interpretive Center

Sept 19, 2014 - Papa's Casino, 1165 N Stratford RD, Moses Lake

Oct. 17, 2014 - Beach House Bar and Grill 8198 Highway 262 SE  
Mardon Resort