
COULEE CORRIDOR BYWAY BEAT

Volume 2. Issue 1

Coulee Corridor Consortium – Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway January 2013

Coulee Corridor 2003 Grant Completed

By Mark Amara

Installation of the remaining structural elements of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway's (CC NSB) 2003 grant were completed in 2012. Since 2003, north end and south end CC NSB gateway signs, 40 Coulee Corridor trailblazer signs, and an interpretive trail at Lake Lenore have all been installed.

The first multi-colored sign placed between two imposing basalt supports was installed near Othello on State Highway 17 south of Cunningham Road. A special ribbon cutting event to celebrate the event took place on April 20, 2012 with several supporters in attendance. Tim Alling, Chair of the Coulee Corridor Consortium introduced CCC board members Mark Amara, 1st Vice Chair, Ken Caylor, 2nd Vice Chair, and Barb Caylor, Treasurer. Others in attendance were Roger Hartwig, Adams County Commissioner, Tim Wilson, City of Othello Mayor, Ehman Sheldon, City of Othello City Administrator, Larry Julius, Grey & Osborne Engineers, Coulee Corridor Consortium members, Roger Krug, Adams County Development Council, and Emily Braunwart, Grant County Economic Development Council and local news media.

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Coulee Corridor Booth at Business Expo, Pasco, 10/2012

Large crowds attended the Expo



The Byway Behind the Scenery

By Tim Alling

The Coulee Corridor Consortium (CCC) participated in a recent public outreach event to publicize the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway. The CCC and the Adams County Development Council jointly staffed a booth at the Tri-Cities Business Expo October 24, 2012. The Business Expo is sponsored by the Tri Cities Chamber of Commerce each fall. CCC members tending the expo booth included Ken and Barb Caylor, Roger Krug, and Harry Hayter. It was estimated over 1000 people attended the event; 250 Eastern Washington Travel Planner guidebooks and other Coulee Corridor literature were distributed to expo attendees.

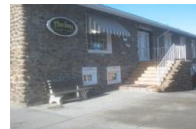
One of the CCC's 2013 goals is to secure visitor promotion financial support from communities along the byway. Tourism promotion grant applications and funding requests have been solicited from the cities of Coulee Dam, Grand Coulee, Electric City, Coulee City, Soap Lake, Othello, Ephrata, and to the Grant County Tourism Commission. Funding will help the CCC promote Coulee Corridor National Byway activities, provide information on learning opportunities, help bring visitors to see world class features and help entice people to get involved in fun events.

Early in 2013 the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is planning a forum on the economic benefits of bicycle tourism for scenic byways. WSDOT has invited a representative from the Oregon Scenic Bikeways Program to talk about their experience. The CCC has also been specifically invited for a round-table discussion about the state of the Scenic Byways Program and available funding opportunities for byway projects. Though the meeting date has not been set, it will likely be in late January or early in February either at WSDOT facilities in Seattle or Olympia.

Editor's Note: Here is a partial excerpt from the People and Places Map of the Coulee Corridor by author Mark Amara, 2011 highlighting Soap Lake features which incidentally is the site of the January 2013 regular CCC meeting. Each newsletter issue may showcase cities that coincide with planned meetings.

Soap Lake (Grant County) Adjacent to State Highway 17

Long revered for its medicinal properties, Soap Lake was first used by Native Americans thousands of years ago. Native peoples called the lake Smokiam or "healing waters" and *Let-to-to-weints*, which means "healing water springs." The first pioneers who stayed at the lake in the 1880s knew it as Sanitarium Lake. By 1914, the town boomed and through the 1950s, there were still quite a few spas, cabins and hotels. People believe the lake has beneficial curative properties and use its water to treat a variety of skin and internal disorders. Many of the town's first residents had lake water pumped into their homes for drinking and bathing though very few do now. Most of the hotels close to the lake have lake water pumped into their rooms. Soap Lake mud is almost equally as popular as the lake water and people are often seen carting away gallons of it during the summer for various uses.



Janes & Company, Inc. Soap Lake Products (226 Daisy)

Around 1910, E. Paul Janes used rounded river rock to build this unique structure. It housed his business products guaranteed to cure various ills, including Soap Lake water, which was bottled. Soap Lake products were manufactured in a steam plant behind the building. Janes left in 1913 and the Soap Lake Products business was taken over by Earnest and Roxy Thorson in 1920 and operated until 1984 after which it was converted into apartments. Now it is called the Inn at Soap Lake (Photo).



C. J. Webber Building (Corner of Daisy and Main)

Named for its first business owner, the red brick structure is now occupied by SLAM (Soap Lake Art Museum). CJ Webber used Soap Lake water in the 1920s to treat physical ailments. The C. J. Webber Bath House offered steam and mud baths and massages. The bath house was a popular sanitarium, which like many others was attended by a physician, and catered to people who found the water provided therapeutic value and related health benefits.

"Calling the Healing Waters" Bronze Sculpture (along the Soap Lake shore)

The Soap Lake healing sculpture is a large human sundial depicting how mother earth and father sky connect with the lakes essences and create healing. Local citizens raised the money over the last decade to create the statue, site, design, and build it in place. It was dedicated in 2009.



Coulee Corridor 2003 Grant Completed
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The North Gateway sign put in by the Okanogan County Road Department on State Highway 155 went in November 2012 with considerably less fanfare than the South Gateway sign (south of Othello) installed on State Highway 17 and dedicated in April 2012.

A 2003 National Scenic Byway grant through the Federal Highway Administration provided nearly \$200,000 funding for this multi-phased project.

Besides the gateway signs, there were other achievements completed as part of this grant. In June 2010, a ¼ mile trail, interpretive signs and restroom facilities were installed at Lake Lenore on the gravel road adjacent to the Lake Lenore Caves trailhead near Milepost 85 on State Highway 17. Four interpretive panels have been established along a ¼ mile x 120' wide gravel trail that terminates near the shore of Alkaki Lake, show information about the landscape, history, and culture of the area and include a map of the Coulee Corridor. Besides the Coulee Corridor board, others who contributed to this phase of the project completion included Amy McDougall and Steve Wang, former interpretive specialists from the Dry Falls Visitor Center and representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation who helped compile the content for the panels; Sandra Noel, Noel Designs of Vashon Island, WA, created the graphics for the panels, Keith Young of Young's Welding, Electric City worked on the basalt bases and a New York firm called the Fossil Company produced the panels while staff from Sun Lakes State Park installed the signage.



Grant County Commissioner, Carol Ann Swartz and Denis Felton, Sun Lakes SP Manager review the progress on the interpretive trail project during the 2010 dedication.

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Finally, nearly 40 Coulee Corridor Trailblazer signs were placed along the roads between Othello and Coulee Dam. Cooperating entities included the Coulee Corridor Consortium, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Eastern Washington University, Washington State Department of Transportation, Grant County Tourism, City of Othello, and Washington State Parks.



The Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway runs approximately 150 miles between Othello and Omak with multiple spur and loop routes that cover Connell, Ephrata, Wilson Creek, Warden, Hartline and Almira. The area offers the opportunity for travelers to experience the regions scenery, wildlife, history, recreation, geology, and cultural resources.

Coulee Coin Wins the Toss

Reprinted from American Road magazine, Winter 2012 edition:



Heads or Tails? Every day, coin-tossers across the country make that call. Unless, of course, the disc they flip boasts sides a little less conventional in their designs. Such a novelty is the Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin.

One side of the metal keepsake depicts the September 11, 1912, American Geographical Society Transcontinental Tour of the Grand Coulee. That convoy consisted of a team of 75 experts who drove around the area with the goal

of determining the origins of Eastern Washington's ancient riverbed.

The flip side of the memento bears the logo of the Grand Coulee Corridor and a classy icon it is: the stylized graphic depicts today's Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway curving through a canyon at the edge of the river's striking turquoise waters.

Tim Alling is the Chairman of the Coulee Corridor Consortium, the board that manages the renowned National Scenic Byway. He says that the consortium plans to commission a series of these colorful tokens to celebrate Coulee Corridor highlights. The first-issue souvenir described here cannot be used to purchase anything, but its value as a commemorative keepsake is certainly substantial to any historic highway enthusiast.

Editor's Note: Commemorative coins may be purchased by contacting the Coulee Corridor Consortium at their new phone number (509) 634-1608.

Selected seasonal festivals, activities and other events:

Coulee Corridor Consortium Monthly Meeting, January 18, 2013, Don's Restaurant, Soap Lake

Grant Coulee Dam Lions Valentines Breakfast, February 16, 2013, Grand Coulee Dam Senior Center

Not Too Stinkin' Cold 5K & 5 Mile Runs, March 23, 2013, Soap Lake

16th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival, April 5-7, 2013, Othello

Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber of Commerce " Trout, Walleye, and Small Mouth Bass Fishing Tournament", April 5 & 6, 2013, Coulee Playland Resort, Electric City

Bloomin' Warmup 5K & 10K Runs, April 13, 2013, Soap Lake

Soap Lake Pow Wow, June 7-9, 2013

New Coulee Corridor Consortium Adopt-A-Highway Refuse Cleanup Location along SR17 at MP 84-85 near Lake Lenore – April 2013 with specific dates to be determined

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 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 AllingChair

Mark Amara.... 1st Vice Chair

Ken Caylor.... 2nd Vice Chair

Birdie Hensley...Secretary

Barb Caylor...Treasurer

Get Involved With Coulee Corridor Consortium

Committees:

National Scenic Byways

Marketing

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Newsletter

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Website Updates

Contact the Coulee Corridor at

www.couleecorridor.com or call (509) 634-1608

Coulee Corridor Consortium
PO Box 123
Grand Coulee, WA 99133

New Mailing Address:

**Coulee Corridor Consortium
PO Box 123
Grand Coulee, WA 99133**

Phone: (509) 634-1608

Editor's Note: Coulee Corridor Consortium Meetings are held Monthly throughout the Byway on the third Friday of each month starting at 12 noon

Coulee Corridor Holds Regular Meetings

The public is invited to attend any of these Friday lunch time no host events to find out what is happening and to participate in events and activities.

January 18, 2013 í ..Donos Greek Restaurant in Soap Lake

Others to be determined.

