

The Civil War, Then and Now:
Musings on the Sesquicentennial

by Ron Hatzenbuehler
Idaho State University



What’s wrong with this picture?

Editor’s note: The year 2011 marked the sesquicentennial of the outbreak of the American Civil War (1861-1865). Later in 2012, the Idaho Humanities Council, in partnership with the Cecil D. Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State University, will offer a five-meeting reading and discussion series in Boise over the course of five weeks that explores the topic “Making Sense of the American Civil War,” funded in part by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The series will be open to the public, and IHC will supply all books free of charge to participants who will commit to participate in the entire series (watch later in 2012 for details on IHC’s website on how to sign up!). The IHC also will offer the series in three other communities. In commemoration of the sesquicentennial, we asked Dr. Ron Hatzenbuehler, Professor of History and Associate Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Idaho State University, to reflect on the meaning of the war to Americans today. The following was inspired by a talk Ron gave to Chapter AA, PEO Sisterhood in Idaho Falls in the summer of 2011. He thanks Idaho Falls resident Sharon Price for the invitation to speak, and gratefully acknowledges contributions to the content of the article from Professor William C. Hine of South Carolina State University and from retired Pocatello attorney Billy Carter (formerly of North Carolina).

The sesquicentennial of the Civil War provides an opportunity to reexamine its importance for the nation’s history. The war meant different things for its combatants; arguably, its meanings divide Americans today no less than when the war began in April 1861.

For those who supported the United States, the Civil War confirmed the validity of three propositions. First, it reinforced the belief that the nation’s affairs were in a good position and getting better. Integral to this view was the region’s economic growth in the years leading to the war—embracing scientific advances in agriculture that renewed the soil’s fertility; diversification of agriculture and industrialization in order to meet the needs of an increasingly urbanized population; urbanization that stimulated the need for new building technologies, transportation, and employment possibilities; and increased immigration.

The war itself and its immediate aftermath confirmed the wisdom of these values with three landmark pieces of legislation—the Homestead Act, the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862, and the Pacific Railroad Bills of 1862 and 1864. The Homestead Act ensured that western lands would be settled by people who supported the Union by opening about ten percent of the nation’s territory to ordinary people. The Morrill Act used military necessity to justify turning over lands to states in order to bolster education in agricultural and mechanical (including military) arts as aids in developing western lands. The railroad bills financed the building of a transcontinental railroad (completed in 1869) that linked the west—especially the gold fields in California—with the north and the east.

Intimately connected with economic growth was a second, strongly held belief—not always reflected in the realities of increased stratification in urban areas—in democratic values rooted in expectations of upward mobility. Constitutional change fueled these expectations as new state constitutions removed property qualifications for voting and promoted the rise of political parties dedicated to getting voters to the polls. Although women were excluded from voting, they did participate in these democratizing influences.

The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 highlighted the inconsistencies inherent in a nation that prided itself on popular control of government but that denied these rights to women. Slaves were also denied rights of citizenship, and Abolitionists in the North pointed to the hypocrisy—in their minds—inherent in the Declaration of Independence that proclaimed that all men were created equal and the Constitution that protected slave owners’ rights to benefit from the labor of others.

Finally, increased immigration that began in the 1830s (notably, Irish people fleeing poverty in their homeland)

(See CIVIL WAR, Page 4)

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Humanities

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The Newsletter of the Idaho Humanities Council Winter 2012

What We Talk about When
We Talk about Work

By Keith C. Petersen
Idaho State Historian

Editor’s note: Since the fall of 2011 the Idaho Humanities Council has been touring the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “The Way We Worked” to a half-dozen Idaho towns (see related article, page 3). The exhibit depicts the history of American labor and explores how work gives meaning to identity. As it travels to three more communities, February through June of 2012, we asked Idaho historian and writer Keith Petersen, IHC’s scholar consultant for the Idaho tour of the exhibit, to reflect upon the subject of work, using his own research and his own experiences as his guide.

Idaho Humanities Council Program Officer Jennifer Holley called about a year ago with an offer: How would I like to be the scholar consultant for the 2011-2012 Idaho tour of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, “The Way We Worked?”

How flattering. But I had qualms. Although I’ve written about the history of the logging industry in Idaho, I am not an historian of work. Just what did I have to offer?

But then Jennifer mentioned that the job came with an honorarium. Suddenly, my confidence grew. A wage is a powerful incentive. So, I agreed to work for wages to come up with something to say about working for wages at the opening day for each of the towns hosting this extraordinary exhibit.

The angle I came up with is largely about me. While I know more about myself than any other topic, I also rationalized that, although the exhibit is spectacular, it can be enriched if we bring to it our own life stories. After all, we are all workers (whether volunteer or paid); we live in communities of workers; we raise our children to work.

Besides, how far away are any of us from the topic of work? If you sit next to a stranger on a plane, one of the first questions is “What do you do?” The answer almost invariably deals with what a person does for a living. Even if the person answers, “I’m retired,” it is a reflection on work formerly done.

But there is nothing inherent in that question leading to an answer about work. We all “do” many things in a day. Indeed, the majority of what we do during most days is not work related.

And yet, work is so ingrained in American culture, that next to family—and then not always—it is what most defines us as a people.

So, I suddenly began considering myself an expert! I thought about my work as an historian in different ways. I realized that work has been a key component of every project I’ve undertaken. It doesn’t take much twisting of a story to turn it into a story about work. I thought about three characters I had come to know through research, and how their stories helped me contemplate the role of work in our lives.

With the support of an IHC Research Fellowship awarded in 2010, I am researching the life of Northwest road builder John Mullan. One hundred and fifty years ago, one of Mullan’s crew set out on a winter expedition, lured by the promise of a stipend—the lure of money for work—if he delivered mail to the Bitterroot Valley. Charles Schafft was an experienced outdoorsman. But his timing was bad. He started his jaunt during what might have been the worst winter in Northwest history.



The author’s grandparents, defined by work, in their work clothes.

E.D. Pierce, the man credited (not totally accurately) with discovering gold in Idaho and for whom the town of Pierce is named, reported during that winter that “horses, cattle and sheep died by the thousands; there seemed to be a continuous bone yard wherever you went.” Mullan, in winter camp just outside of Missoula, dutifully made daily weather recordings until one night when the temperature got somewhere south of minus 40 degrees. He knew it was colder than that, but that was when the thermometer broke.

Despite the piled snow and the joint-numbing temperature, Schafft ventured out. He was a literate man, but understated. Here is what he wrote of that trip: “Altogether it was not a very pleasant situation.”

Unpleasant indeed. The first day into his trek, Schafft slipped through ice into a small slough, wetting his feet. He continued on. That night, he did all the right things: built a fire, dried his clothes, and as he said, felt warm. But by morning, he was hobbling. Taking a rest on his journey, he discovered that both feet were frozen solid up to his ankle.

He managed to make it back to the road-building camp, where his friends took off his moccasins—and a good deal of flesh with them. Eventually, he had both his legs amputated.

It might be enough to leave Schafft as an amputee in that icy winter camp in 1862. The story could stop here—an example of a man so influenced by a payday that he lost his limbs while doing his job. That is a compelling story, and certainly not an isolated incident of American workers risking their lives.

But Charles Schafft could not bear the thought of being an invalid with no work to do. So he hired on with Jesuit missionaries, doing whatever he could as a paraplegic. He ended up working his entire life, in a variety of jobs. In other words, work provided Charles Schafft with his identity—and of course, in the days before social safety nets, also with his room and board—as he could not fathom a life without work, even without legs.

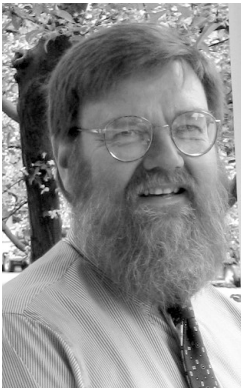
When I was researching the history of the company town of Potlatch for a book on the Potlatch Lumber Company (eventually published as *Company Town: Potlatch, Idaho, and the Potlatch Lumber Company*, Washington State University Press, 1987), I ran into a relative. I had grown up with stories about Anna Utt’s family, my Mom’s aunt and uncle. I knew my Mom’s uncle worked for the Washington, Idaho, and Montana Railroad, the line the Potlatch

(See WORK, Page 3)

Quite a Year for Story

By Rick Ardinger

This past winter, the Idaho Humanities Council supported Rexburg’s citywide reading of Thornton Wilder’s *Bridge of St. Luis Rey*, which featured a host of lectures and complimentary community activities. This spring the IHC is the main supporter of the Ada County Library’s “Treasure Valley Reads” program, encouraging all in the valley to read Mark Twain’s classic *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.



In Idaho’s panhandle this spring, the IHC is behind the “North Idaho Reads” community reading program of Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* in 11 libraries in three counties. In Lewiston, Moscow, and several Washington border towns, the IHC is supporting an “Everybody Reads” program built around author Jim Lynch’s novel *Border Songs*.

In preparation for the IHC’s 2012 summer teacher institute, some teachers are starting to immerse themselves in *My Antonia*, *The Professor’s House*, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, and other works by Willa Cather.

On April 5, the IHC will bring to Idaho Falls masterful storyteller Rick Bragg, author of the poignant memoir *All Over but the Shoutin’* and other books.

On October 12, the IHC will bring to Coeur d’Alene short story master Anthony Doerr, and the buzz is on to read *Memory Wall*, *The Shell Collector*, and Doerr’s other prize-winning works.

It’s quite a year for story.

The IHC for many years has encouraged community reading programs that have been enormously successful, often supporting the costs to bring the author to town or—in the case of Twain, Wilder, and Cather—scholars, biographers, and chautauquans to enhance understanding and enjoyment of these great authors.

The IHC, the Idaho Commission for Libraries, and US Bank this year again will collaborate on the 27th year of the *Let’s Talk About It* series, the library reading/discussion series that brings scholars to 15 Idaho libraries around the state to talk about books and various engaging five-book themes for a total of 75 scholar-led discussions.

Aside from providing great reading, these kinds of programs engage communities in civil discourse, and “connect people with ideas.” They bring people together from behind their computers and TVs to meet face to face for the common interest of exchanging ideas, telling their own stories as they relate to the lives led by characters in books—and they get to know neighbors better.

Organizers for such programs form great partnerships that last beyond the reading series. The benefits of libraries, schools, arts councils, newspapers, museums, and businesses collaborating to make such programs happen are excellent examples of local capacity building. These partnerships are critical to the success, and the IHC invites grant applications to assist in this effort.

Meanwhile, for those of us who haven’t yet replaced books with an iPad, Nook, or Kindle, the stack on the night stand isn’t getting any shorter. ♦

Katherine Aiken new IHC Chair

Katherine Aiken, Dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Idaho, was elected Chair of the 19-member Board of Directors of the Idaho Humanities Council at the Council’s fall meeting. Aiken replaces Jeff Fox, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at the College of Southern Idaho. Fox has served as a member of the IHC board since the fall of 2003.



a Ph.D. in history from Washington State University.

Aiken has taught at the University of Idaho since 1984. Her areas of interest include 20th Century United States history, social and cultural history, and women and labor. She is the author of numerous articles, and her books include *Idaho’s Bunker Hill: The Rise and Fall of a Great Mining Company, 1885-1981* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2005), and *Idaho: The Enduring Promise*, with Kevin Marsh and Laura Woodworth-Ney (Cherbo Publishing, 2006). Her book

Harnessing the Power of Motherhood: The National Florence Crittenton Mission, 1883-1925 (University of Tennessee Press, 1998) was nominated for the Berkshire Women’s Historical Award. ♦

Two new members elected to Idaho Humanities Council board

The Board of Directors of the Idaho Humanities Council has elected two faculty members from Boise State University and the College of Idaho to its 19-member board. The new members will serve three-year terms and attend their first meeting in February 2012.



Beret Norman (Boise) is Associate Professor of German at Boise State University. She holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Germanic Languages and Literatures from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Her major research fields include literature and film of the German Democratic Republic (1949-1989) and re-unified Germany, 20th century German and Austrian drama, 20th century German poetry, and 21st century literature.



Boise State University’s Beret Norman (left) and the College of Idaho’s Sue Schaper attended the first meeting in February.

Susan Schaper (Caldwell) is Associate Professor of English at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. She holds an M.A. from Washington State University and a Ph.D. in literature from Indiana University. She teaches modern British literature, seminars on the American West, and Native American fiction. Her other areas of specialization

include Victorian studies, with particular interests in ghost stories, children’s literature, and regionalism. She also serves as the College of Idaho’s Honors Fellowships coordinator.

The IHC board is comprised of Academic, Public, and At-Large members representing all regions of the state (N, SW, and SE). Four members are appointed by the governor. Terms are three years,

renewable once. Several members rotate off the board each fall as terms expire and new members are elected. The IHC board will fill several vacancies in the fall of 2012.

The Idaho Humanities Council’s mission is to “deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas.” The board meets three times a year to award grants for public humanities programs throughout Idaho, and to plan special projects and programs to promote greater public understanding of literature, history, cultural anthropology, law, and other humanities disciplines.

For more information, visit www.idahohumanities.org or call 208-345-5346. ♦

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217 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
(208) 345-5346
Toll Free: (888) 345-5346
Fax: (208) 345-5347
www.idahohumanities.org

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The Idaho Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from other foundations, private corporations, and individuals. IHC’s mission is to increase the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities in Idaho. It accomplishes this through educational projects for the general public and various target audiences. The Council plans and conducts projects on its own and in concert with other organizations such as universities, colleges, libraries, civic clubs, professional associations, historical societies and museums, and other cultural, educational, and community entities. IHC also provides grant support for humanities projects throughout Idaho.

Opinions expressed in *Idaho Humanities* do not necessarily reflect views of the Idaho Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Idaho Humanites Council is to deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas.

WORK
(Continued from Page 1)

Lumber Company built to transport logs to its gigantic mill; I knew my Mom went to visit the family when she was young. I did not know the family and my Mom had lost contact with her cousins. But in Mom’s telling of these stories, those were great childhood adventures as her family journeyed to Harvard, Idaho, to visit the relatives; live along the railroad tracks; play in the woods. My mother’s stories were filled with nostalgia and romance.

When I came across Anna Utt’s story in the oral history collection at the Latah County Historical Society, I did not recognize her as a relative, until I uncovered her maiden name. Then I realized that the reminiscences of a bucolic childhood that my mother recalled did not jibe with the whole truth.

Since the Potlatch Lumber Company owned everything in town, including the school, it could dictate that only children residing inside the town limits could attend. But the Potlatch School had a reputation as one of the best in the state; an education there was much desired.

Anna lived in Harvard, outside the town limits. Her only possibility to attend Potlatch School was to work as a hired girl in the fancy management houses on Nob Hill, living with a family there. It was an experience that stayed with Anna her entire life.

Her first job, with the town doctor, went well. But then higher wages lured her away—a common temptation in the world of work.

She went to work for the manager of the company store, whose wife told her that “if I’d come and work for her, why she’d give me a dollar a week besides my board. So I changed. I was staying in a good place, but a person needs money, too.”

Anna did the ironing and the dishwashing, got the two kids off to school, and provided child care afterwards. She washed clothes and starched the store manager’s shirts. “I was so weary by the time I’d get ready for bed.”

The payoff: “I don’t think I ever collected a dollar. She would give me some old blouse she’d worn out. She’d say ‘Well, you take this for your pay and we’ll say it’s worth about \$6.’ And so that would be 6 weeks I’d work for that thing.”

The experience affected her views for a lifetime. “You was just a servant,” her husband recalled. “Somebody gets a few dollars and everybody’s supposed to salute ‘em.”

Discovering Anna’s story gave me a new perspective on my own family history. I enjoyed my mother’s stories, but I realized family stories seldom feature controversy or uncomfortable subjects. Anna’s story also led me to contemplate the significance of women as workers, and children in the workforce, and to understand that while work can bring pride, it can also stifle pride and lead to anger and dissatisfaction.

I met Ed Ferrell on a fish barge as I traveled down the Snake River researching a book about dams along the Lower Snake (*River of Life, Channel of Death: Fish and Dams on the Lower Snake*, Confluence Press, 1995). Ed was tending the small salmon smolts as they made their way below Bonneville Dam to be dumped into the river so they had a better chance of surviving to the ocean than if they had to navigate through eight dams on their own. A lifetime Corps of Engineers employee, Ed had volunteered to help tend the fish during a time when budget cuts prevented the Corps from hiring seasonal help.

“Ed Ferrell is the quintessential but often overlooked Corps employee,” I wrote in my book. “Although Army officers head the agency, civilians make up more than 98 percent of the Corps’ work force, and for the most part they are civilians who take great pride in their work and have a tremendous loyalty to their agency. A good many are even environmentalists, and while Ed Ferrell might not describe himself as such, anyone observing the gentle way this mountain of a man handles tiny fish would know he had environmental instincts.

“‘Them fish are like gold in Fort Knox,’ Ferrell says as he gingerly scoops a dead one from the top of a holding tank. On his previous trip he carried eighteen tons of smolts and tallied 360 morts, as tenders call dead fish. That’s an enviable survival record. But as I watch Ed dip a handful of mortalities from the tanks and toss them overboard, I know each dead fingerling hurts. Ed would like a perfect run. He would like to go the distance from Lower Granite Dam to Bonneville without a single mort.”

Recalling Ed Ferrell got me thinking about government workers, much maligned anymore. We would do well to remember that we all know

government employees. They might be in the military; they might teach our children. They might look a lot like Ed Ferrell. When we put a face on public employees, they somehow don’t seem so ominous.

Ed’s story also led me to think about the interconnectedness of work. It would be a stretch to say that thousands of jobs depended upon how well

Ed Ferrell did his work—but not that great of a stretch. The salmon issue on our rivers impacts the lives of many, including Indian and white commercial fishermen, port employees who rely on slackwater navigation,

farmers who irrigate, and industrial workers who depend upon a steady flow of inexpensive hydroelectricity.

People like Ed Ferrell—many of us—are part of an integrated chain. We rely upon other workers—most of whom we don’t know; many of whom more and more frequently live in other countries.

....

Well, I have a peculiar occupation. Not all of us research the lives of others. But we all have our own lives, our own families, and there are work stories we can contemplate in those family histories.

My grandfather, born in 1885, lived to be 102, and except for a couple of brief encounters—mostly unsuccessful, for he was an independent soul—he never had a supervisor. Yet he never stopped working. I asked him in his 90s what he thought was the secret of a long life. And he said, “A feller’s got to find a little something he can do every day.”

My grandfather had a huge garden. Not until he was 98 did he allow my dad to bring over his rototiller. Until that time he did all the spading by hand; it was a little something he could do every day.

At age 100 he moved into a nursing home. I asked him once how the meals were. “They’re OK,” he said,

(See WORK, Page 4)

Smithsonian exhibit on Work to visit Burley, Twin Falls, and Bonners Ferry through June

The Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit *The Way We Worked* will visit Burley, Twin Falls, and Bonners Ferry February through June of 2012. Adapted from an original exhibition developed by the National Archives, the exhibit explores how work became such a central element in American culture by tracing the many changes that affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years. The exhibition draws from the Archives’ rich collections to tell this compelling story.

The exhibit visited Priest River, McCall, and Coeur d’Alene in 2011. While on display, each community will develop around the exhibit its own local programming, ranging from school projects, to lectures, films, local displays, and other activities. Idaho’s State Historian Keith Petersen, author of *Company Town: Potlatch, Idaho, and the Potlatch Lumber Company* (Washington State University Press, 1987) and several other books, is the project scholar and will give opening night lectures in each of the communities.

The Way We Worked focuses on why we work and the needs that our jobs fulfill. Our work takes place everywhere – on the land, on the streets of our communities, in offices and factories, in our homes, and even in space. An exploration of the tools and technologies that enabled and assisted workers also reveals how workers sometimes found themselves with better tools, but also with faster, more complex and often more stressful work environments. The diversity of the American workforce is one of its strengths, providing an opportunity to explore

how people of all races and ethnicities identified commonalities and worked to knock down barriers in the professional world. And, finally, the exhibition shows how we identify with work – as individuals and as communities. Whether you live in “Steel Town, USA” or wear a uniform each day, work assigns cultural meanings and puts us and our communities in a larger context.



The Smithsonian exhibit *The Way We Worked* on display in Coeur d’Alene.

The exhibition offers multiple interpretive opportunities for visitors through large graphics, along with relevant objects and work clothing. Through audio components, visitors hear workers tell their own stories about changes in their industries and confronting workplace challenges. Follow workers into their workplaces through films

of various industries. Interactive components will introduce visitors to the experiences of multiple generations of families involved in the same work. A companion website will invite host communities to create online exhibitions on their local work history and for visitors to share their own work experiences.

Created by the National Archives, *The Way We Worked* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

The Way We Worked has been made possible in Idaho by the IHC and by a generous grant from the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. ❖



The Smithsonian exhibit depicts Americans in all jobs and professions.

The Way We Worked Schedule

Host: Burley Public Library

Contact: Valerie Bame
Ph: 208-878-7708
Email: Valerie@bplibrary.org
City: Burley, ID
Dates: February 4 – March 17, 2012

Host: Twin Falls Center for the Arts

Contact: Carolyn White
Ph: 208-734-2787
Email: Carolyn@twinfallscenter.org
City: Twin Falls, ID
Dates: March 24 – May 5, 2012

Host: Boundary County Historical Society

Contact: Colet Allen
Ph: 208-267-7720
Email: colet@meadowcrk.com
City: Bonners Ferry, ID
Dates: May 12 – June 23, 2012



WORK

(Continued from Page 3)

“But not enough for a working man.” At the age of 100, he still defined himself through work—or in this case, the sudden absence of it.

My Dad, unlike his father, had a boss for most of his life and spent 35 years employed by one company, working the pot rooms, making aluminum for Alcoa. It was honorable, good paying work. That plant is now closed, and those types of jobs are scarce.

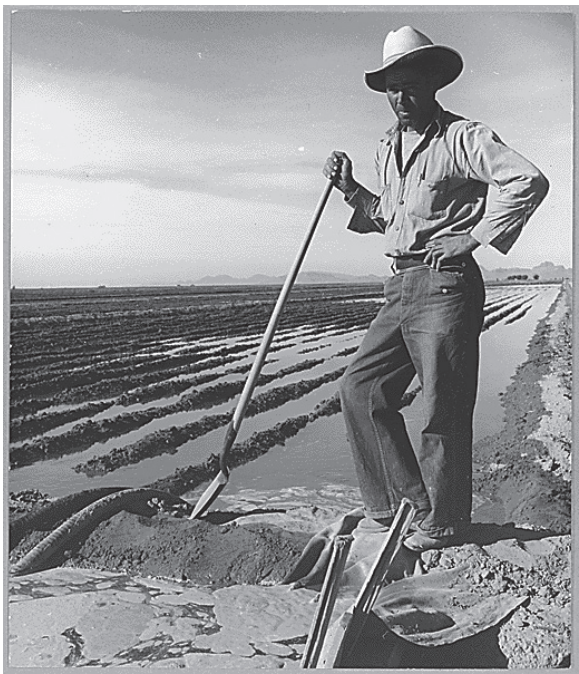
My Mom worked in an anti-freeze manufacturing plant—also no longer in existence—where she proudly belonged to the Teamsters Union. My mother earned more than my father—virtually unheard of at the time. That taught me to appreciate the work of both men and women.

My parents were not much to moralize, but one thing I could never do was cross a picket line. That used to be a problem. I remember times being inconvenienced because a store was being picketed and my conscience would not allow me to cross—a dilemma that in today’s changing world of work we rarely confront. That gives us something else to contemplate: what has happened to unions, and how has that and will that affect the lives of American workers?

My grandfather died 24 years ago. Not all that long ago. But the work world he exited is profoundly changed from the one in which his great-grandchildren now engage. One hundred years ago, when my grandfather farmed in North Dakota, 40 percent of Americans worked in agriculture; 2 percent do so today. Sixty years ago, when I was born, 30 percent of Americans worked in managerial, clerical and sales jobs; 70 percent do today.

I think how amazed my grandfather would be today if he glanced at the *Yellow Pages*. (Well, actually he would first be stunned to learn that probably none of his great-grandchildren even use anything as pedestrian as a book called the *Yellow Pages*.)

But I imagine my grandfather trying to discern the occupations associated with the following headings:



The Smithsonian exhibit explores work in all seasons, all regions.

Advertising-electronic; Asbestos Abatement; Body Piercing; Call Centers; Cellular and Wireless Phones; Compact Discs; Data Storage; Document Destruction.

I didn’t go past the “D’s”, so I didn’t even get to such subjects as Geotextiles, Satellite Communication, or Tanning Salons.

Certainly we should contemplate changes when we think about how we work and have worked, but we should also remember that some things stay basically the same, even though technology might change. History is a continuum.

On a horseback trip along the Columbia River heading to California after completing his road in 1862, John Mullan envisioned a time when canals would allow boats to travel, without portaging, all the way from Portland to Walla Walla, connecting there with his road, which he believed would become a

major thoroughfare to the east.

Today, long-haul truckers make their way over Interstate 90 and turn south on Washington Highway 195—both of which overlap Mullan’s road—to deliver goods to ports on the Snake River, where they are shipped to Portland, without portaging.

Viewing an exhibit like “The Way We Worked,” it is too easy to say: “That was then; this is now.” That disassociates us with our past. But those people in the exhibit images are really us. Too often when we think about history, we dehumanize it, as if the people of the past somehow were different, had different feelings and emotions. There is no reason to study history if we do not understand its continuity. Otherwise, it is just a curiosity, something that happened “back then.”

I get confused when I hear someone say, “I don’t read history. We need to live for the future.” To me, history is something like the experience of an astronomer viewing through a telescope the brilliant light of a star that burned itself out millions of years ago. In present time, that astronomer is viewing the past.

History is our foundation, and exhibits like “The Way We Worked” enable us to contemplate the past and make connections to it.

And so, despite my original reservation about this assignment, by chasing the lure of a paycheck, I have become a convert to work history. Each year, the Idaho Humanities Council brings a different Smithsonian exhibit to six Idaho communities. No other state humanities council supports so many of these outstanding exhibits. I truly commend the IHC, and I’m pleased to be a part of the show this year. ♦

Keith Petersen is Associate Director of the Idaho State Historical Society and serves as Idaho’s State Historian, based in Moscow. He’s the author of a half-dozen books exploring the history of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest.

CIVIL WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

increased the ethnic diversity of residents in urban areas. Because the great majority of these Irish immigrants were Catholic, religious dissension increased in the North. Protestants had been long accustomed to being in a majority throughout the nation, but they now had to defend the truth of their beliefs in the face not only of increasing numbers of Catholics but also the emergence of new denominations stemming from what historians call the Second Great Awakening of religious enthusiasm. Some of these new religions were also Millennialist, meaning that the members believed that the end of time was near. Out of this religious upheaval came a renewed questioning by groups of people of the extent to which the United States stood in a favored relationship with God (“a City on a Hill,” in the words of Puritan leader John Winthrop in the 1630s). If the Second Coming was near, many questioned whether the nation was prepared for that cataclysmic event, and social and religious reformers advocated behavioral changes in order to purge the nation of moral and social evils, including slavery.

As the armies of the United States eventually gained the upper hand in fighting during the Civil War—especially following the crucial summer battles of 1863 at Gettysburg in the east and the end of the siege of Vicksburg in the west—many Northerners concluded that God was on their side and would lead their soldiers to victory. Emblematic of this sentiment are the lyrics of Julia Ward Howe’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic” (1862):

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on....

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is marching on....

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free;
While God is marching on....

Underpinned by religious fervor and smugness, victory in the war confirmed a sense of righteousness in Northerners. Abraham Lincoln challenged this feeling of omnipotence in his second inaugural address

by suggesting that the ways of the Lord were hidden from human understanding, but his warnings were wasted on his listeners. The day after his address, he wrote to a correspondent who had complimented him on the address that the speech “would not be immediately popular. Men are not flattered by being shown that there has been a difference of purpose between the Almighty and them. To deny it, however, in this case is to deny that there is a God governing the world.” There is utterly no pride, patriotism, or gloating in that second inaugural—no “mission accomplished.” Rather, Lincoln proclaimed that the Lord was punishing the victors as well as the losers for having maintained human bondage for over 200 years.

Thus did the Civil War foster the belief in the North that wars are good for the economy, that they are fought to victory, and that they banish evil. Right—supported by God’s favoring grace—triumphs, Lincoln’s admonitions to the contrary notwithstanding.

II

For Confederate sympathizers, the war had entirely different meanings stemming from an emphasis on strengthening the status quo instead of opening new vistas of the future. The myth that members of the gentry class in Virginia spun in the 18th century that they were the descendants of British aristocrats carried over into the 1800s. As two hundred years of single-minded devotion to growing tobacco for export took a huge toll on soil fertility in the Old Dominion, Virginians took their slaves or sold them to regions where growing tobacco was not profitable, but cultivating cotton was. (As long as there were regions in which slavery existed, older Southern states could breed slaves for newer regions.) In Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas, these



Soldiers on both sides believed God was on their side.

émigrés built houses in the style of the mansions of their parents and grandparents, intermarried in order to maintain the size of their plantations, and tried to live in the style to which their ancestors had grown accustomed in the pre-Revolutionary era.

This emphasis on underpinning the position of the privileged class extended to new state constitutions that Southerners wrote in the 1820s and 1830s, and Southern politics remained far less democratic than in northern states. White male voters in South Carolina, for example, did not elect governors or presidential electors until after the Civil War. The state legislature—dominated by cotton and rice planters—performed those tasks. The primary purpose of these constitutional changes was to strengthen protections for slavery and for slave owners, especially in the wake of Nat Turner’s Rebellion in 1831. Then, John C. Calhoun’s arguments that a state might nullify acts of Congress that it believed to be unconstitutional spawned a corresponding emphasis on states’ rights to counter tyrannous majority rule.

As this situation unfolded, Southerners recreated the myth that their antebellum world was characterized by civility and grace based on the best aspects of Old World culture. Margaret Mitchell’s epic novel

(See CIVIL WAR, Page 5)

CIVIL WAR

(Continued from Page 4)

popularized the view that the Southerners' prior world was "gone with the wind," aided by the callousness of a ruthless enemy intent on pillage and human suffering for the vanquished. For many years, Southerners wore "defeat" as a badge of honor, encapsulated in the mantra, "Forget? Hell, no!" In many locations today, the Civil War is still known as "The War of Northern Aggression," and statues to the Confederate dead, Stone Mountain in Georgia, and "secession balls" dominate popular sensibilities. In the words of William Faulkner in *Requiem for a Nun* (1951), "The past isn't dead. It isn't even past."

The Second Great Awakening burned as deeply in the South as in the North but in diametrically opposed ways. Southerners, like Northerners, faced the prospect of the Second Coming, but in contrast with their countrymen Southerners welcomed that event *as individuals* because they believed that they had created a perfect society. This belief was based upon the fact that the Bible—especially passages in the New Testament like St. Paul's advice to slaves to obey their masters—justified slavery.

Whereas Northerners saw imperfections in American society and feared the Second Coming, Southerners welcomed it because they believed that they lived their lives in conformity to God's message in the Bible. By the 1830s and 1840s, slave owners baptized their slaves and taught them that a belief in Jesus Christ would save them in an afterlife. Southerners believed, in short, that they had created a perfect society on earth and welcomed the Second Coming with the assurance that all would be well for them.

Another difference in how the Second Great Awakening impacted the two regions relates to the fact that religious enthusiasm in the North occurred within the context of diversity, but in the South religious pluralism never materialized. Few immigrants entered the region due to constricted opportunities for economic and social advancement, and religious homogeneity predominated. Especially in the wake of the War of 1812, Methodists and Baptists became the denominations of choice in the South, and these faiths reinforced evangelical appeals to individual salvation rather than on focusing on group repentance for sins. The net effect of this emphasis was that slave owners might reject sin in their lives—whatever form it might take—without undertaking fundamental changes to their society.

During the war as Southern armies faced defeat and following the end of the war, Southerners shifted their attention from the New Testament to the Old Testament and the story of Job who—through no fault of his own—suffered for his faith. "Bad things happen to good people," they reasoned, and they trusted that severe testing of their faith on earth would lead to redemption in heaven.

Economics reinforced this emphasis on the past. As tobacco gave way to cotton in Deep South regions, little changed because both crops were grown for export, and both staples relied on the need for fertile soil and inexpensive labor. "King Cotton" and the slave laborers who produced it prior to the war brought profits to plantation owners because of an expanding

market need for cotton to feed textile manufacturing in Great Britain and in northern factories. Whether Southerners would have made more money by diversifying their economy by growing other crops or expanding into manufacturing as many economists argue, the fact is that it is difficult to change direction when things appear to be going well.

Following the war, economic conditions declined due to overproduction, declining markets, and a system of sharecropping that produced profits for land owners but not for those who grew the cotton. Large families necessary to do the work of the farms compounded the situation, and the net result for the region was abject poverty. When he became president in 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed the South as the nation's "number one economic problem."

Finally, in the wake of the war Southerners faced the reality of defeat as a result of physical occupation by the U.S. Army and in some cases challenges to rights to vote under the Congress's "Ironclad Oath."

Implementation of the 14th and 15th Amendments added insult to injury by extending the rights of citizenship and political participation to male former slaves.

As Northerners tired of social reform and the Congress ceased to enforce the provisions of the 14th and 15th Amendments following the end of Reconstruction, Southerners reverted to their old ways by reintroducing white supremacy through segregation and physical intimidation of African Americans throughout the region. This system perpetuated itself until the 1950s, when African Americans once again asserted their right to equal opportunity, eventually buttressed by the Supreme Court, presidents from both parties, and the U.S. Congress. Civil rights legislation over the past half century has dramatically altered life in the South. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended segregation in public facilities, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ushered in a powerful black voting bloc that brought hundreds of black office holders into state and local offices. Orval Faubus, Ross Barnett and George Wallace of a generation ago—not to mention Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee of 150 years ago—would be astonished that Barack Obama carried the states of Virginia and North Carolina and Charleston County, South Carolina, in 2008.

In summary, for Southerners the Civil War reinforced an emphasis on the past, led to poverty instead of economic growth, and left the region defeated and isolated from the rest of the nation until the latter half of the 20th century.

III

But times change, and arguments abound today that the South—not the North—drives American society. Franklin Roosevelt needed the South's electoral votes to become president, and he needed for the region to recover economically in order to get the nation out of the Great Depression. A first step in this recovery involved the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority which brought affordable electricity to the Deep South and—thereby—an entry into economic development. The need for year-round military bases during WWII and the expanded military needs brought on by the Cold War extended this economic boom by bringing federal spending into numerous military

bases in Southern states. The Cold War extended this trend as did the "race for space," due to NASA's decision to locate its primary headquarters at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and Houston, Texas.

Then, the expansion of air-conditioning following WWII produced what has been called "the landslide South" as Northern and Midwestern companies moved to the former Confederate states in order to take advantage of lower electrical costs, inexpensive labor, and year-round productivity because it is cheaper to cool buildings in the summer in the South than it is to heat them in the winter in the North. Today in Southern cities, coated panels on the outside of buildings reflect the sun's rays, and modern HVAC systems circulate the air at a uniform temperature, year-round. A "southern axis" of amusement parks stretching from Disneyland in southern California to Disney World in Florida, and sports franchises in the NBA, NFL, and even the NHL that have proliferated in Southern venues dominate the nation's entertainment outlets. The fastest growing states in the United States are located in the South and Southwest, stimulated perhaps because three of the eleven Confederate states have the lowest overall tax burdens in the nation (Tennessee, Alabama, and Texas, in that order). Further evidence of Southern dominance rests in the fact that neo-Confederate ideas frequently clustered under the ideology of states' rights are not the exclusive purview of Southern states (e.g., the battle in the Idaho Legislature last session over legislation to nullify national laws). Irreconcilable Southern extremists feed on such issues to perpetuate interest in "the Lost Cause."

A seemingly less important issue relates to the fact that many Southern states require that a license plate be displayed only on the rear of automobiles. Doing so allows license plates bearing the Confederate flag to be placed on the front of the car. That emblem—most commonly known as the Stars and Bars—conjures multiple meanings. To many, it means family, love of place, endurance, and the will to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. For others, it symbolizes slavery and intolerance.

In the last twenty years the Civil War has been refought in several Southern states through disputes over whether the Stars and Bars should fly over state capitols. Most recently, the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization has won approval in nine states to have its logo—including the Stars and Bars—appear on license plates. Last April, the Texas commission that oversees approving license plate emblems deadlocked 4 to 4 over whether to approve the option and then voted unanimously in November not to. Proponents of the new license plate argue that the design honors all veterans—including those who went to battle following that particular flag—and they vowed to seek to overturn the commission's decision in court.

The issue of the Texas license plate is larger than it would appear to outsiders because the Lone Star image is so deeply embedded in Texas mythology, that among the states it is the only one to have been an independent nation. Stars appear on the controversial license plate, but they serve as backdrop for the Confederate emblem. If Texans trade the Lone Star for the Stars and Bars, all bets are off. Then, the South will unquestionably have won the Civil War. ♦

Ron Hatzenbuehler is the author of several books, including 'I Tremble for My Country': Thomas Jefferson and the Virginia Gentry (University Press of Florida, 2009). He is a longtime member of the Idaho Humanities Council Speakers Bureau.

Lemhi County Historical Society receives Elsensohn Award

The Lemhi County Historical Society in Salmon is the 2011 recipient of the "Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award," a \$10,000 award of pooled resources of the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the Idaho Heritage Trust annually recognizing outstanding work of an Idaho museum. Idaho Humanities Council Board Member Ed Marohn (Idaho Falls), Idaho State Historical Society Director Janet Gallimore (Boise) and Trustee Tom Blanchard (Bellevue), and Idaho Heritage Trust Director Katherine Kirk (Boise) attended the award ceremony in Salmon in early January.

In the past few years, the Lemhi County Historical Society has completely redesigned its exhibits, engaged the



IHC Board Member Ed Marohn, presents a check to Lemhi County Historical Society Board member Hope Benedict in January.

interpret artifacts from Idaho County and the surrounding area to better educate the general public. It was her vision

community with numerous annual public events, and provided professional assistance to other museums in the area. The award is in recognition of the museum's outstanding service.

The award is named after Sister Alfreda Elsensohn, who founded the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude in the 1930's. Sister Alfreda sought to collect, preserve, and

of Idaho museums as exciting, interactive, interpretive, and educational institutions that the Award seeks to recognize by honoring one outstanding Idaho museum each year.

Recipients of the award are leaders in the field of Idaho museums that will be able to use the \$10,000 award to move to a higher level of professionalism.

The Idaho Humanities Council encourages public awareness and understanding of history and other humanities disciplines," noted IHC Board member Ed Marohn. "The Lemhi County Historical Society has for years led public discussions of the humanities that greatly aid in this effort."

Previous recipients of the Elsensohn Award include Bonner County Historical Museum in Sandpoint (2008), South Bannock County Historical Center in Lava Hot Springs (2009), and the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude in Cottonwood (2010). ♦

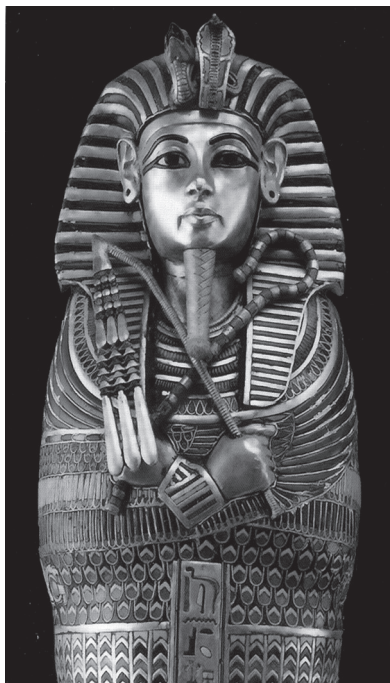
Idaho Humanities Council awards 31 grants at fall meeting

The IHC awarded **\$92,404** in grants to organizations and individuals at its recent board meeting in Boise. Thirty-one awards include 24 grants for public humanities programs, four Research Fellowships, and three Teacher Incentive Grants. The grants were supported in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and IHC's Endowment for Humanities Education. The following projects were funded:

Public Program Grants:

The Idaho Writers Guild, Boise, received **\$5,000** to support a Writers and Readers Rendezvous in Boise, May 3-5, 2012. The festival will bring writers and readers together for a weekend of panel discussions, readings, and lectures. **Doug Copsey** is the project director.

The Museum of Idaho, Idaho Falls, was awarded **\$5,000** to help fund the traveling exhibition *Tutankhamun: "Wonderful Things" from the Pharaoh's Tomb*. Scheduled to run from June 15-November 30, 2012, the exhibition features replicas of original artifacts. The exhibit tour will be complemented with speakers discussing the art, history, theology, and culture of ancient Egypt. The museum will offer school tours and educational materials for teachers. **David Pennock** is the project director.



Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, received **\$2,000** to help support its local Speakers Bureau, providing speakers on a variety of historical topics to local schools and libraries, regional festivals, and other non-profit organizations. Speakers frequently perform as historical characters and engage audiences in discussions about the history of the area. The project director is **Jack Peasley**.

The Human Rights Education Institute, Coeur d'Alene, was awarded two grants, one for **\$2,000** for a project titled *Peace Lives Here: A Challenge for the 21st Century*, which will explore Mahatma Gandhi's "eight social sins" and how they relate to life today. The second grant for **\$2,600** will support a spring 2012 presentation by "Living Voices," an educational company of performers based in Seattle that provides an entertaining and engaging way for K-12 students to learn about history and human rights. Their multi-media presentations will explore the Holocaust, the Civil Rights Movement, Japanese internment, and other historical issues. **Heather Keen** is the project director.



Coeur d'Alene will explore Mahatma Gandhi's "eight social sins."

KWIS FM/Voice of the Coeur d'Alenes, Plummer, received **\$5,000** for their *Language Preservation Project*. The pilot project will develop printed materials and online streaming and interactive web activities to accompany broadcast of Coeur d'Alene language lessons. The project director is **Sarah Freeburg**.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise, received **\$5,000** to help support its *Shakespeare* educational outreach program. The 2012 season will take a condensed production of *Macbeth* to students and teachers throughout Idaho. The performance, online study guides, and educational workshops allow

students the opportunity to explore themes and issues of the play in more depth and learn about the conventions of Elizabethan theater and the language and poetry of Shakespeare. The project director is **Christine Zimowsky**.

Idaho State University, Pocatello, was awarded **\$2,000** to help fund a public keynote address by medieval history and language scholar Antonette diPaolo Healey at the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference in Pocatello in April of 2012. The conference theme is "Categorizing the Medieval and Renaissance Worlds." Healey, from the Centre for Medieval Studies in Toronto, Canada,



Antonette diPaolo Healey

will address the ways in which modern technology can be used to study the language and mentality of an early culture, specifically that of Anglo-Saxon England. ISU Professor **Thomas Klein** is the project director.

Idaho State University, Pocatello, was awarded **\$1,500** to help support a semester-long interdisciplinary series of presentations titled "War in Society." Activities included an exhibit, lectures, and a panel discussion that addressed the theme of war and society. The project director was **Linda Leeuwrik**.

The Anderson Center, Idaho State University, Pocatello, received **\$2,000** to assist in bringing performance poet Andrea Gibson to Pocatello in recognition of National Poetry Month this coming April. Gibson is the winner of several national and regional performance poetry competitions. **Rebecca Morrow** is the project director.

Idaho Public Television, Boise, was awarded **\$12,500** to help support statewide broadcast of Season 24 of *The American Experience*, one of television's longest-running and most-watched American history documentary series. The proposed new program lineup for this season includes biographies of President Bill Clinton, Western legend Billy the Kid, Olympic champion Jesse Owens, a film about the Grand Coulee Dam, a new documentary on Custer's Last Stand, and the story of a unique American cultural group, the Amish. **Cindy Lunte** is the project director.

Boise State University, Boise, received **\$2,000** to help support a series of three public presentations between January and April of 2012 that explore the theme of "The Idea of Nature: 1660-1860." The series will examine Anglo-American ideas of nature through an interdisciplinary lens. Keynote presenters include College of Idaho English Professor Rochelle Johnson, speaking on "The Metaphor of Progress: American Landscape Painting," University of Northern British Columbia Professor Kevin Hutchins on "William Blake's Environmental Poetics," and a third speaker to be announced. The project director is **Samantha Harvey**.



Juan Manuel Barco instructs corrido composers.

The Idaho Latino Scholarship Foundation, Boise, received **\$2,000** to assist with an evening of Latino corrido music at the Nampa Civic Center in June of 2012. This concert will bring together students and Seattle-based corrido teacher Juan Manuel Barco for a performance of corridos they wrote in workshops designed to teach the art form. It will feature corridos, a traditional form of folk music in Mexico that was used to convey news of the day and immortalize incidents in history through song, written by Idaho students.

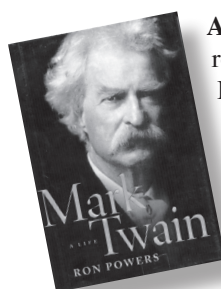
The project director is **Ana Maria Schachtell**.

Boise Art Museum, Boise, was awarded **\$2,500** to bring Robert Wittman, founder of the FBI's Art Crime Team, to Boise for a lecture in January. Author of *How I went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures* (Crown, 2010), Wittman explored art and antiquities fraud. His presentation helped commemorate the Boise Art Museum's 75th anniversary. **Melanie Fales** was the project director.

Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, received **\$3,000** to support the fifth year of a two-day conference called "Chinese Remembering," which highlights the influence and contributions of the Chinese to the history of Idaho and the Inland Northwest in the 19th century. It includes a scholar-led interpretive tour to sites once occupied by Chinese, including the site of the 1887 murder of 34 Chinese miners. The project director is **Patricia Keith**.

Ketchum-Sun Valley Ski and Heritage Museum, Ketchum, was awarded **\$2,000** for an exhibit on the architecture of the Sun Valley Lodge as envisioned by Gilbert Stanley Underwood. It will include blueprints of the lodge and a collection of sketches of Underwood's vision for it. Opening in mid-December 2011 and closing in mid-February 2012, the exhibit will be accompanied by a lecture about Underwood's architecture, placing it in historical context, and noting its importance to architecture of the West. **Megan Murphy Lengyel** is the project director.

Burley Public Library, Burley, received **\$1,100** to develop a photography exhibit on local work history to complement the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "The Way We Worked," which explores the meaning of work in the past, present and future. The library will host the exhibit February 4-March 17, 2012. The program will teach photography, gather photos about contemporary work, and combine these with historical work-related photos for the local exhibit. The project director is **Valerie Bame**.



Ada Community Library, Boise, received **\$4,500** to help support the Boise area "Read Me," program, a community-wide reading project for Ada and Canyon Counties in 2012. The community is reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Presenters included Twain biographer Ron

Powers, author of the NY Times Bestseller *Mark Twain: A Life*, Twain Chautauquan Brad Roghaar of Weber State University, University of Oregon scholar David Bradley, presenting on censorship and the recent publication of a "cleansed" version of *Huckleberry Finn*, and biographer, Michael Sheldon, author of *Mark Twain: Man in White—The Grand Adventure of His Final Years*. **Mary DeWalt** is the project director.

Lewis-Clark State College Native American Club, Lewiston, received **\$2,000** to help support its twenty-fifth annual Native American Awareness Week to be held March 5-9, 2012. Designed to increase awareness of Native Americans and Native American cultures, Native American elders and tribal leaders from several tribes will focus on topics relating to preserving the culture, history and traditional knowledge of their individual tribes. Activities include speaker presentations, storytelling and other cultural presentations. **Bob Sobotta** is the project director.

The Historical Museum at St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, was awarded **\$1,500** to make their exhibits more interactive for visitors, particularly for students, in a "Walk through Time" format. The museum will upgrade its exhibits to provide hands-on, experiential learning about the history of Idaho and the Inland Northwest. The project director is **Catherine Feher-Elston**.

Boise State University, Boise, was awarded **\$4,000** to help support the Second Annual Latin American Arts Festival, April 21-28, 2012. This week-long festival is coordinated by a joint effort between

(See GRANTS, Page 7)

GRANTS

(Continued from Page 6)

Boise State University and the Mexican Consulate in Boise, offering the general public a chance to better understand Latino Culture. Presenters will include Cuban-born poet Orlando Gonzalez-Esteve, who will lecture on Cuban literature and politics; Mexican novelist Martin Solares; Peruvian novelist Mario Bellatín; and Mexican-American arts promoter and communication strategist Salvador Acevedo, of San Francisco, who will speak on organizations building bridges to the Latino community. **Clay Morgan and Mac Test** are the project directors.

The University of Idaho, Moscow, received **\$4,900** for two seminars for social studies teachers in Idaho that focus on “Landmark Supreme Court Decisions in US History.” The “We the People” curriculum, developed by the national Center for Civic Education, will be one of the primary pedagogical tools employed during the seminars. The seminars will be conducted by David Gray Adler, Director of the University of Idaho James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research. Designed to promote civic education, the first seminar was held in Boise on February 2-4, 2012, and examined several landmark rulings delivered by the Supreme Court that have shaped American culture and its constitutional development. A shortened one-day seminar will be held in Coeur d’Alene in the spring. The project director is **David Adler**.

Teton Valley Museum Foundation, Teton, received **\$954** to develop interpretive signage for their museum displays exploring early Teton Valley settlers, including the progression of agriculture and local culture. **Kay Fullmer** is the project director.

The City of Caldwell received a **\$1,000** Planning Grant to bring together for a meeting four experts in restoration and museum interpretation to help develop a plan to restore and preserve the Van Slyke Museum, an outdoor agricultural museum of log cabins, railroad cars, and displays of historic agricultural equipment.

Research Fellowships:

Steven Maughan, Department of History, **The College of Idaho, Caldwell,** was awarded **\$3,500** for a research project titled *Anglo-Catholics, Religious Communities, Foreign Missions and the Debate Over Indigenization, 1857-72*. Maughan will conduct research in key British archives, in order to examine the impact of nineteenth-century Anglo-Catholicism on British Christian foreign missions and the British Empire.



Jacqueline O’Connor, Department of English, **Boise State University, Boise,** received **\$3,500** to support her research into the work of 20th century American playwright Tennessee Williams. O’Connor will use the grant to complete a book exploring the influence of Tennessee Williams’ writing on the acceptance of marginalized individuals and groups and their impact on social movements.



Gary Olson, English Department, **Idaho State University, Pocatello,** was awarded **\$3,500** to help complete the authorized biography of literary critic and public intellectual Stanley Fish, tentatively titled *America’s Enfant Terrible: The Life of Stanley Fish*. The fellowship will support travel for research, and interviews with prominent scholars, literary critics, and former students of Fish.



Edward “Mac” Test, Department of English, **Boise State University, Boise,** received **\$3,500** to support research to complete a book entitled *Consuming the Americas*, which

will examine how the discovery of the New World influenced English Renaissance literature.

Teacher Incentive Grants:

The IHC awards grants of up to \$1,000 twice a year to K-12 teachers and educational organizations to enhance teaching of the humanities in the classroom. The following grants were supported by IHC’s Endowment for Humanities Education.

Susan Dransfield, Mary McPherson Elementary, Meridian, was awarded **\$850** to help provide materials for her students to study primary sources, artifacts, and hands-on activities in their study of American and Idaho history. Ultimately, students will create a presentation for National History Day in Idaho.



Garden City Library Foundation, Garden City, received **\$1,000** for continued support of its “Bells for Books” bilingual program. The grant will bring bilingual books to the attention of families of English language learners. Over 6,000 patrons used the bilingual books in 2011, and this grant will help to increase the holdings.

Tami Williams, Malad Middle School, Malad City, received **\$500** to support a project to bring published authors to her school to encourage students to write original stories. Student books will be bound and shared with parents at a public event. ❖

The Next Deadline for IHC Grants:

The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is **September 15, 2012**. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before writing their proposals. Applicants also are strongly encouraged to submit a rough draft of their proposal for staff critique several weeks prior to the deadline. Grant guidelines and online application instructions, as well as information about IHC grants and activities, are available on IHC’s website at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling 208-345-5346.

Teachers invited to apply to attend IHC weeklong summer institute on novelist Willa Cather

Idaho teachers of all grades and disciplines are invited to apply to attend the Idaho Humanities Council’s 2012 weeklong summer teacher institute titled “**Visionary Landscapes: Willa Cather and the Search for Place in the West,**” scheduled for July 22-27, at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. Successful applicants will receive lodging and meals, texts, and the opportunity for optional college credit. Those traveling more than 250 miles one way may be eligible for a modest travel stipend. Community college faculty members also are eligible to apply. **The deadline for applications is April 1.**

Supported by the IHC’s Endowment for Humanities Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the interdisciplinary teacher institute will explore three novels by Willa Cather (1873-1947)—primarily *My Ántonia*, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, and *The Professor’s House*. The institute also will explore the nonfiction classic about the West, *The Land of Little Rain*, by Cather-contemporary **Mary Austin** (1868-1934), the paintings of **Georgia O’Keeffe** (1887-1986), and the western photography of **Laura Gilpin** (1891-1979), **Ansel Adams** (1902-1984), and the inspired connections other writers, artists, musicians, and photographers made to the landscape in the early 20th century in their respective art forms. The institute will explore Cather as one of America’s best-loved writers, Austin as perhaps a lesser known voice to many Idaho teachers in the perception of the West, and Georgia O’Keeffe as one of the iconic American artists of the West. Their works were visionary in their exploration of regional imagery. Though they were referred to by many critics in their day as “regionalists,” Cather, Austin, O’Keeffe, and other artists elevated “regionalism” from an artform of perceived limited interest to the universal significance of cutting-edge modernist perspective.



Teachers will explore the works of American novelist Willa Cather (1873-1947) at IHC’s summer institute, July 22-27, 2012.

Perhaps best known for her novels *O Pioneers!* and *My Ántonia*, Cather used Red Cloud, Nebraska, almost as a character in her novels. So taken with the American Southwest when she visited New Mexico, Cather set two of her other widely read novels, *Death Comes for the Archbishop* and *The Professor’s House*, in the Southwest, and her descriptions of the land are some of the most moving depictions of place in 20th century American literature. Mary Austin’s *The Land of Little Rain* (1903), now regarded as a classic of natural history and natural philosophy, explores not

only the flora and fauna of the arid West, but the spiritual traditions of those who make their life on a harsh and unforgiving land, and the experiences that shape personal truth. Likewise, artist Georgia O’Keeffe turned to the Southwest and its bone-bare landscapes for the inspiration that fueled her paintings to become some of the iconic works of 20th century art.

The institute will explore as well the affinity for and alienation from place, the dialectic of “longing and belonging” that has characterized the American experience of place both on the frontier and in modern urban landscapes. It will examine how geography, history, and climate shaped character, and fueled creative works in ways that were new to modern literature and art.

Scholars involved so far will include **Steven Shively**, Associate Professor of English at Utah State University, and **Jennifer Emery Davidson**, Associate Professor of English and Director of the College of Southern Idaho Blaine County Center (Hailey). Shively serves on the board of the Willa Cather Foundation in Red Cloud, Nebraska, has published extensively on Cather, and is editor of the biannual journal *Teaching Cather*, and is co-editor of the anthology *Teaching the Works of Willa Cather* (GreenTower Press, 2009). A former high school teacher, he holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska. Active in the Western American Literature Association, Davidson has written extensively on the themes of home and identity in Western American literature. She holds B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Carleton College and the University of Utah respectively.

The application deadline is April 1, 2012. Interested teachers should visit www.idahohumanities.org or contact the Idaho Humanities Council at (208) 345-5346. ❖

IHC to bring Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Rick Bragg to Idaho Falls, April 5

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Rick Bragg will be the speaker at the IHC's 5th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner on Thursday, April 5, 2012, 7 p.m., at the Bennion Student Union at University Place in Idaho Falls.

Bragg is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of three best-selling memoirs about his family and the working class people of the foothills of the Appalachians: *All Over but the Shoutin'*, *Ava's Man* and *The Prince of Frogtown*.

In addition, he is the author of a collection of his newspaper stories, *Somebody Told Me*, and a biography of Iraq War veteran Jessica Lynch, *I'm a Soldier, Too*. In October of 2009, a collection of his stories about mill workers in Alabama was published, entitled *The Most They Ever Had*.

Bragg's topic for the evening in Idaho Falls will be "Writing in Color: The Art of Telling Stories," in which he will talk about his own family's storytelling traditions, as well as the storytelling traditions of Alabama and the south he grew up with.

"I come from the best storytellers on this planet," Bragg says. "My uncles could make you hear the change rattling in the pocket of the deputy as he chased them down a dirt road. Their words, their stories, exploded with color, with images, with detail. Why, I would come to realize, would anyone ever tell a story any other way? Every award, every best-selling book I ever had anything to do with, is tied to this simple principle. Southerners probably do it better than anyone else, with all modesty, though the Irish have a pretty good grasp of it, too. I will not bore the listeners with lectures on writing or lectures on anything. I will only tell some sto-



ries, to make people laugh or cry or feel something, which is what I try so hard to do in every page I have ever written."

Bragg is a native of Calhoun County, Alabama. He worked at several newspapers before joining *The New York Times* in 1994. He was named Miami Bureau Chief just in time for the Elian Gonzalez battle, and later became a roving reporter based in New Orleans. He has also written for numerous magazines, from *Sports Illustrated* to *Food and Wine*.

In addition to the Pulitzer, Bragg has won more than 50 awards, including the American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1993, and currently teaches journalism at the University of Alabama. He lives in Tuscaloosa with his wife and stepson. He is working on a biography of Jerry Lee Lewis.

Tickets are available NOW for purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org under "IHC Events," or by calling the IHC toll free at 888-345-5346. General tickets are \$35. Benefactor tickets are \$70, offering an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with Bragg in a private home and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends reserving tickets early as the event often sells out.

Since 2008, the IHC has brought top historians and authors to Idaho Falls for the annual event. Previous speakers include presidential biographer Robert Dallek (2008), Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (2009), Western American historian Elliott West (2010) and National Book Award winner Tim Egan in 2011. ♦



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IHC's Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture & Dinner with Rick Bragg, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 5, 2012, University Place Bennion Student Union

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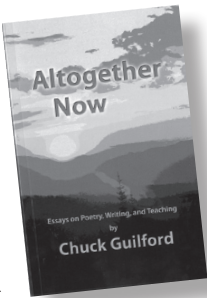
If paying by credit card, you may use this form and fax it to (208) 345-5347. Reservations will be made upon receipt of payment. All reservations will be confirmed by letter. Tickets will not be sent, and table designations will be available at the door. If you are supporting student scholarships to attend, you will receive a special acknowledgement letter and recognition from IHC at the dinner. Idaho civics teachers are working with the IHC to identify scholarship recipients. For more information, call (888) 345-5346.

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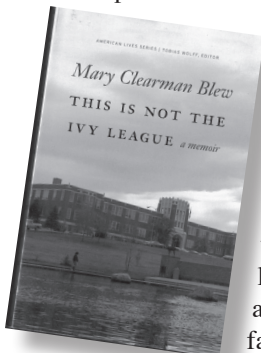
News & Opportunities

New books and CDs by Mary Clearman Blew, Chuck Guilford, Amil Quayle, Gary Eller

WordCurrent Press announces publication of *Altogether Now: Essays on Poetry, Writing, and Teaching* by Boise writer Chuck Guilford. *Altogether Now* features essays written over a 30-year period about teaching metaphysical poetry, the works of Ezra Pound, C.K. Williams, and Charles Wright, writing workshops, the new era of digital literature, and the relevance of the humanities in the 21st century. Guilford taught literature and writing for two decades at Boise State University, served on the board of the Idaho Humanities Council, and was a founding board member of Boise's Log Cabin Literary Center. He's the author of a novel, *Spring Drive: A North Country Tale* (also available from WordCurrent Press), and his essays and poetry have appeared in *Poetry*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *Coyote's Journal*, *College English*, and many other magazines. *All Together Now* is available for \$10 through www.wordcurrent.com

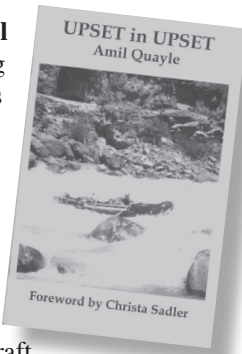


University of Idaho novelist Mary Clearman Blew has published a new memoir entitled *This is Not the Ivy League*, an account of what it was like to grow up on a remote Montana cattle ranch and choosing to pursue a career as a university scholar and writer at a time when a woman's place in the world was supposed to have limits. Married in her teens and pressured by a husband and family to settle down and make



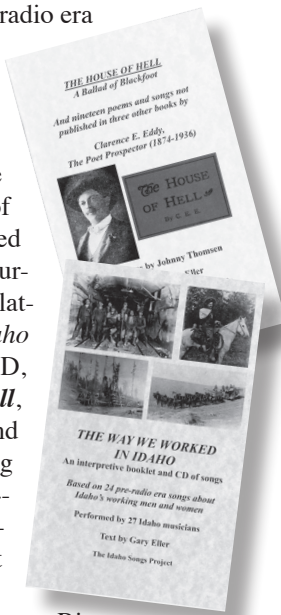
a life as a ranch wife, Blew sought scholarships and a university education instead, and *This is Not the Ivy League* is the candid and moving story about that tough struggle to break free as a woman in the 1950s and 60s. Blew is the author of the acclaimed essay collection *All but the Waltz*, the memoir *Balsamroot*, and the novel *Jackalope Dreams*. She teaches writing in the MFA program at the University of Idaho. The memoir is available for \$24.95 from the University of Nebraska Press, www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

St. Anthony writer Amil Quayle has penned an amazing little pamphlet-memoir of his time as a novice river guide on his first solo guiding trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in 1966. *Upset in Upset* is a story undoubtedly told many times around a campfire, but *finally* put to page about overturning a raft in the Grand Canyon and living to tell the tale when the river ran differently than it runs today. Losing all supplies but a can of tuna and responsible for getting a family of California vacationers to safety, Quayle's tale is an adventure story anyone who has ever rafted whitewater will want to read. It belongs to that genre of river story about ignorance, hubris, and blind luck that rafters love to tell. Quayle is a poet of great presence in eastern Idaho, who worked as a teacher, writer, avid boatman, and jack-of-all-trades. *Upset in Upset* is available for \$5 plus \$1 shipping from Henry's Fork Books, P.O. Box 1, St. Anthony, Idaho 83445.



Idaho song-catcher Gary Eller (Nampa) has recently compiled and released two new CDs of old songs and poems that also feature interpretive book-

lets that are essential to any collection of Idaho music. The first is titled *The Way We Worked in Idaho*, a collection of 24 pre-radio era songs about Idaho working men and women, with songs telling tales of logging, mining, sheepherding, buckerooing, and more. The CD coincides with the tour of the Smithsonian exhibit, titled *The Way We Worked* that is touring Idaho currently (see related story in this issue of *Idaho Humanities*). The second CD, entitled *The House of Hell*, is a collection of poems and songs by Idaho's "prospecting poet" Clarence Eddy (1874-1936), who mined throughout the west, including most memorably his time spent on the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River, near the then-booming mining town of Custer, Idaho, at the turn of the 20th century. The CD features dramatic recitations of Eddy's poems by **Idaho City's John Thomsen**. Both CDs and booklets are part of the ongoing "Idaho Songs Project" that Gary Eller has been working on for several years now to preserve songs inspired by and about Idaho. The CDs are available for \$15 each from Slim Chance Music, 7490 Sky Ranch Road, Nampa, Idaho, or online through www.bonafidaho.com/Idahosongs.htm.



Boise Writer Alan Heathcock Stacks Up Awards
Boise writer Alan Heathcock, author of the award-winning collection of stories titled *Volt*, recently

(See News, Page 12)

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James McPherson spoke to several hundred in Coeur d'Alene

Pulitzer Prize-winning American Civil War historian James McPherson gave the 8th Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture in early October at the Coeur d'Alene Resort to an audience of nearly 360. McPherson spoke about "Why the Civil War Still Matters," to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. McPherson has written several bestselling books including *Battle Cry of Freedom*, published in 1988, which won the Pulitzer Prize.

Earlier in the day, McPherson also spoke to several hundred Coeur d'Alene High School students. Prior to speaking at the Resort that evening, McPherson also greeted dozens of Benefactors at the beautiful home of **Denny Davis and Kathy Canfield-Davis**, sponsored in part by the **Hagadone Corporation**.

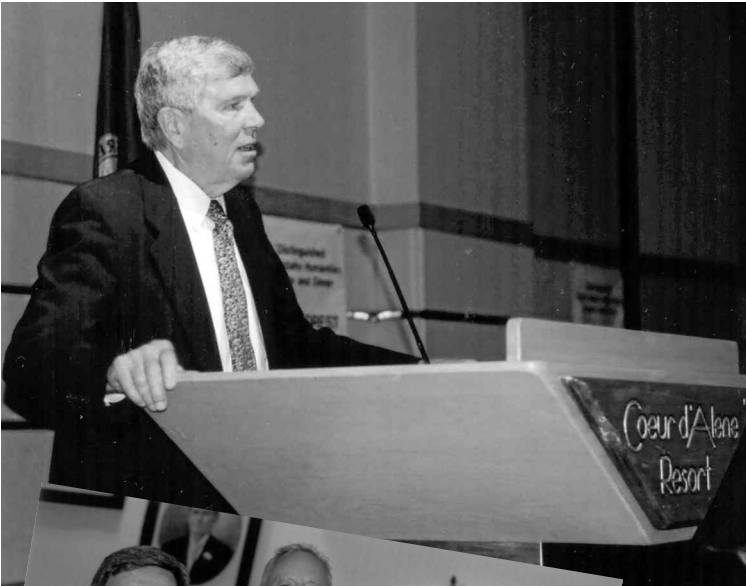
Enormous thanks goes to longtime supporter Marc Brinkmeyer and the **Idaho Forest Group** and to **North Idaho Title** for generously sponsoring the event. IHC thanks media sponsors **Idaho Public Television** and the **Coeur d'Alene Press** for promoting the event, and **Barnes and Noble** for facilitating book sales (with a portion of the sales going to support IHC programming).

The IHC is grateful to Benefactors for their added generosity, including the following firms and individuals that purchased Benefactor Tables: Idaho Forest Group, North Idaho Title, Hagadone Corporation, Intermax Networks, Coeur d'Alene Press, Coeur d'Alene Mines, Idaho Public Television, and the Margaret Reed Foundation.

Thank you also to Paul March, Chris Riggs, Mary Giannini and Art Harlow, Robert and Martha West, MaryBeth

Ranum, George and Juli Ives, Dean and Cindy Haagenson and Ginny DeLong for the student scholarship donations.

We thank IHC's northern Idaho board members, **Kathy Aiken, Fran Bahr, Mike Kennedy, and Jo Ann Nelson**, and the planning committee: **Virginia Johnson, Cindy Haagenson, Nancy Flagan, Fay Sweney, and Katie Saylor**, whose dedication to the humanities in their community made this evening possible. Lastly, tremendous thanks to **Karen Yother** for her instrumental assistance in helping to arrange, plan, and coordinate this event. ❖



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1. James McPherson spoke to several hundred at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in October.
2. McPherson pauses for a photo with Benefactor reception hosts Kathy Canfield Davis and Denny Davis, and IHC director Rick Ardinger.
3. McPherson signed many books after his talk.

More than 600 attend dinner lecture by author, reporter and humorist Calvin Trillin in Boise

Calvin Trillin, author of numerous books, including his newly released collection *Quite Enough of Calvin Trillin: Forty Years of Funny Stuff*, gave the 15th Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture in early December in Boise to more than 600 people. Trillin's talk focused on his writing experiences for the *New Yorker* and he recited some of his humorous poems.

Earlier in the day Trillin was interviewed for Idaho Public Television's Dialogue program and attended a Benefactors Reception at the beautiful Boise foothills home of **George and Bev Harad**.

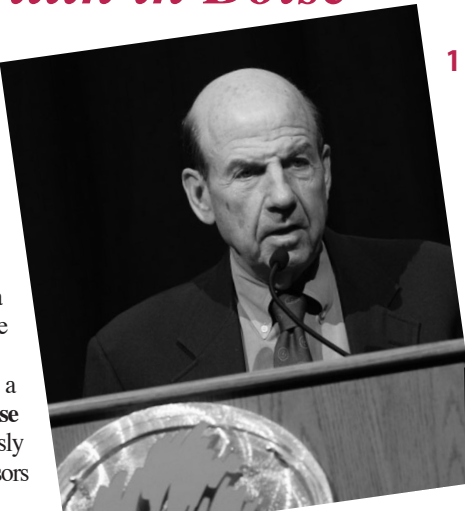
The IHC thanks its underwriters for helping make a very successful evening. Thank you to the **OfficeMax Boise Community Fund** and **Futura Corporation** for generously sponsoring the evening. In addition, IHC's media sponsors **The Idaho Statesman**, **Boise State Public Radio** and **Idaho Public Television** were invaluable partners. **Hotel 43** also generously donated a gorgeous suite for Mr. Trillin.

George and Bev Harad opened their lovely home to over 100 Benefactors for a pre-dinner reception. The reception was generously supported by the **Boise Co-op** and **Jim Wisner**. An additional thank you goes to **Barnes & Noble** for facilitating book sales, with part of the proceeds going to support IHC programming.

The IHC also is grateful to the following firms and individuals that purchased Benefactor Tables: Stoel Rives, the Boise Heights group, the College of Idaho, Gallatin Public Affairs, Futura Corporation, Northwest Nazarene University, The Idaho Statesman, Idaho Public Television, and Steve and Carol Trott.

Thank you to some very generous individuals and organizations who helped share the evening with area students through their donations to the student scholarship fund: William and Judith Collins, Gary and Janet Wyke, Sarah Churchill, Rory and Sisti O'Connor, Chris Riggs, Charlene Curry, Chuck Guilford, Judy Bloom, Marc and Piper Field, Jenny Emery Davidson and Tom and Alice Hennessey.

Finally, tremendous thanks to the event volunteers including Kate Riley, Doug Brown, Mark and Julie Baltes, Spence Holley, Phyllis Ward, and Mindi Paulson. ❖



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1. Calvin Trillin delivers his humor in deadpan style.
2. Trillin with Benefactor Reception hosts George and Bev Harad
3. Guests enjoy the evening
4. Trillin responds to questions from IHC Chair Kathy Aiken.
5. IHC Chair Kathy Aiken presents an Idaho souvenir to Trillin.

IHC Warmly Thanks Idaho Humanities Council Donors!

Contributions made between November 1, 2011 and January 26, 2012

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In Memoriam

In memory of Alyn Andrus

Jerry & Julie Glenn

In memory of Kathleen Powers

Katherine Aiken

In memory of Barbara Cimino

Jim Cimino

In memory of Harriet Badesheim

Joe & Harriet Berenter
J.E. & Lynda Smithman

In memory of Jim Countryman

Peggy Countryman

In memory of Jean McDowell

Robert & Anne DeBord

In memory of Gladys Barker

Sheila Saunders

In memory of Bob Auth

Lee & Jody Mabe

In memory of Carver Long

Katherine Aiken

In memory of John Lytle

Ron James & Lili Zou

In memory of Harold Clark Miles &

Marjorie Ellis Miles

David Clark Miles

In memory of Amy Margaret Christie

Alan & Anne Christie

In memory of Mary Inman

Phyllis Perrine

In memory of Bill Studebaker

Louie & Barbara Attebery

In memory of John P. Whitted

Milly Whitted

In memory of Katherine Troutner

Earnest Johnson

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In honor of Byron Johnson

Gayle Valentine & Keith Kiler

In honor of Jana Jones

Marilyn Howard

In honor of Lindy High

Marilyn Howard

In honor of Marybeth Flachbart

Marilyn Howard



Thank you, Mary Inman

The IHC can use more friends like Mary Inman of Twin Falls. Mary was a long time member of the IHC’s Speakers Bureau and enjoyed talking in character as a 19th century pioneer about the struggles of migrating west and life on the Oregon Trail. Mary loved history and writing and was interested in nature and conservancy. Mary was active in the Twin Falls community, organized walking tours of the original Twin Falls Village and wrote the book *Twin Falls Centurybook, 1904-2004*. Mary also believed in the work of the IHC. We are deeply thankful to Mary for remembering the IHC in her will with a planned gift. She was humble, she did not want an obituary or a service, but she will be remembered for leaving a legacy of support to the IHC. Thank you for thinking of us, Mary.

Prize-winning writer Anthony Doerr to speak in Coeur d'Alene, October 12

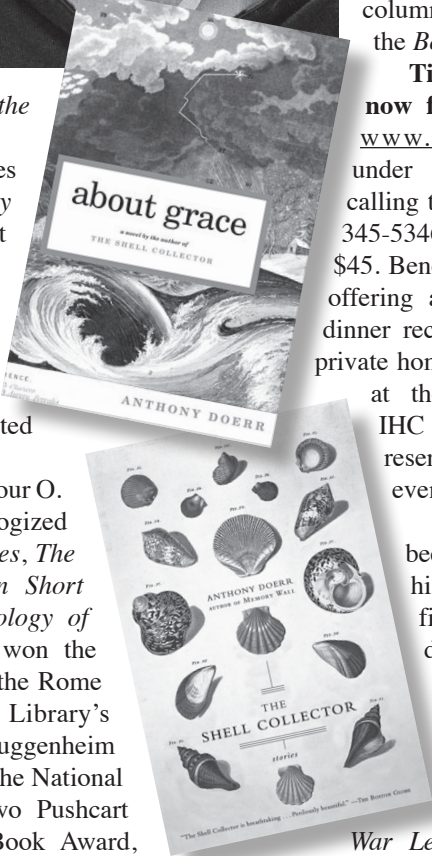
Prize-winning writer Anthony Doerr will be the speaker at the IHC's 9th Annual Northern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner on Friday, October 12, 2012, 7 p.m., at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. Tickets to the event are available now.

Doerr's books include the much-praised short story collection *The Shell Collector*, a novel *About Grace*, and a memoir *Four Seasons in Rome: On Twins, Insomnia, and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World*.

His latest collection of stories (and two novellas) is *Memory Wall*, which features stories set on four different continents, each primarily about the fragility of collective and personal memory. The book won the 2010 Story Prize, and the title story of the collection currently is being adapted as a feature film.

Doerr's short fiction has won four O. Henry Prizes and has been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories*, and *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Fiction*. He has won the Barnes & Noble Discover Prize, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an NEA Fellowship, the National Magazine Award for Fiction, two Pushcart Prizes, the Pacific Northwest Book Award, three Ohioana Book Awards, the 2010 Story Prize, and the 2011 London *Sunday Times* EFG Short Story Award, which is considered the largest prize in the world for a single short story.

His books have twice been listed as *New York Times* "Notable Books" and made a number of other year-end "Best Of" lists. In 2007, the British literary



magazine *Granta* placed Doerr on its list of 21 Best Young American novelists.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, and educated at Bowdoin College in Maine, Doerr lives in Boise with his wife and two sons. He teaches now and then in the low-residency MFA program at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, and his book reviews and travel essays appear in the *New York Times*. He also writes a regular column on science books for the *Boston Globe*.

Tickets are available now for purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org under "IHC Events," or by calling the IHC toll free at 888-345-5346. General tickets are \$45. Benefactor tickets are \$100, offering an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with Doerr in a private home and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends reserving tickets early as the event often sells out.

Since 2004, the IHC has been bringing prominent historians, journalists, and fiction writers to Coeur d'Alene, including presidential biographer Robert Dallek (2004), western writer Ivan Doig (2005), journalist Susan Orlean (2006), *War Letters* collector Andrew Carroll (2007), former National Public Radio News Analyst Juan Williams (2008), National Book Award winner Timothy Egan (2009), detective novelist Sara Paretsky (2010), and Pulitzer Prize-winning Civil War historian James McPherson (2011). ♦



IHC's North Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture & Dinner with Anthony Doerr, 7:00 p.m., Friday, October 12, 2012, Coeur d'Alene Resort

Name _____ Telephone (____) _____
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If paying by credit card, you may use this form and fax it to (208) 345-5347. Reservations will be made upon receipt of payment. All reservations will be confirmed by letter. Tickets will not be sent, and table designations will be available at the door. If you are supporting student scholarships to attend, you will receive a special acknowledgement letter and recognition from IHC at the dinner. Idaho civics teachers are working with the IHC to identify scholarship recipients. For more information, call (888) 345-5346.

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Idaho Writers and Readers Rendezvous slated for May 3-5 in Boise

The Idaho Writers Guild, in partnership with The Story Initiative at Boise State University, is pleased to revive the "Idaho Writers and Readers Rendezvous" a gathering of novelists, poets, publishers, agents, editors, and educators who will read their works, discuss the creative process, and explore the business of writing over the course of three days at Boise Centre on the Grove, May 3-5, 2012. The event is supported in part by the Idaho Humanities Council.

Patterned after regional and national conferences held across the country, the conference revives the popular Idaho Writers & Readers Rendezvous that took place in McCall in the 1990s, a gathering that appealed as much to readers as to writers.



Novelist Kim Barnes

Headliners include award-winning Montana writers Tim Cahill, Idaho writers Mary Clearman Blew (*This is Not the Ivy League*), Robert Wrigley (*Beautiful Country*), Kim Barnes (*A Country Called Home*), Anthony Doerr (*Memory Wall*), and Clay Morgan (*Santiago and the Drinking Party*), St. Martin's Press editor Michelle Richter, Penguin Group editor Meghan Stevenson, and many others.



Montana writer Tim Cahill will keynote the Rendezvous.

and the author of nine books, including *There's a Slight Chance I Might Be Going to Hell* and *The Idiot-Girls' Action Adventure Club*.

Cahill has written for many magazines and is author of a number of books exploring humor and travel, including *Lost in My Own Backyard: A Walk in Yellowstone Park*, *Road Fever: A High-Speed Travelogue*, and many other books.

Workshop topics include: "Publishing Today," a panel discussion on the digitalization of the industry; "From Pitching to Publicity—How to Get Published and Make Your Editor Love You," "How to Keep Your Readers Reading," and "Creating A Marketing Plan for Your Book."

Attendees also will have the opportunity to participate in one-on-one pitch sessions with agents and

editors, as well as read from their work at open mic nights Thursday and Friday. Conference-affiliated contests for short story, screenplay and poetry, with cash prizes, are open to the public. Submissions are due March 10.

Information and registration are at: www.idahowritersrendezvous.com. For more information, contact organizer Doug Copsey at doug.copsey@gmail.com, 208-841-5634. ♦

Notaro is a magazine writer and the author of nine books, including *There's a Slight Chance I Might Be Going to Hell* and *The Idiot-Girls' Action Adventure Club*.

One belief held by all these authors is that a reader brings as much to the page as the writer brings, and that literature is a shared creative adventure. "The Writer as Reader" will be discussed at the conference, and readers of all interests are encouraged to attend.



St. Martin's Press editor Michelle Richter will be on hand.

Information and registration are at: www.idahowritersrendezvous.com. For more information, contact organizer Doug Copsey at doug.copsey@gmail.com, 208-841-5634. ♦



The next deadline for regular IHC grants and Research Fellowships is September 15, 2012. Guidelines are online at www.idahohumanities.org



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NEWS (Continued from Page 8)

added another award to his collection. The Great Lakes Colleges Association announced Heathcock the 2012 award winner for fiction writing. Other praise includes *Publishers Weekly* Best Book 2011, *GQ* Magazine Book of the Year Selection, Chicago Tribune Best Book 2011, and *New York Times* Editors Choice. To learn more about Heathcock visit www.alanheathcock.com.

IHC Hires New Staff Member

If you call the IHC office you'll be greeted by a new voice. Debra Schlechte joined the IHC staff as the new Administrative Assistant and Speakers Bureau Coordinator in the fall. Prior to joining the staff, she received her Dental Assistant Associates Degree from Carrington College and worked at Micron Technology. Debra enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with her husband, daughter, and dog in Meridian.



2013 Thomas Wolfe Society Conference to be Held in Boise

On May 24-25, 2013, the Thomas Wolfe Society will hold its annual conference in Boise, as it explores, among other topics, Thomas Wolfe's connections to the American West. The Thomas Wolfe Society was established in 1979 to promote appreciation and study of the works of this famous American author. Members meet annually in May at locations in the U.S. or Europe visited by Wolfe. Recent and upcoming conference locations include Savannah, Georgia; Paris, France; Asheville, North Carolina; and St. Louis, Missouri.



The works of Thomas Wolfe will be the focus of a conference in May in Boise.

Wolfe is best known for his debut novel, *Look Homeward, Angel* (1929), the story of Eugene Gant, a young writer coming of age in the midst of a dys-

functional family in Altamont, the fictional version of Wolfe's hometown, Asheville, North Carolina. Wolfe's well known posthumous novel *You Can't Go Home Again* (1940), chronicles the 1929 economic collapse and the rise of Nazism. Critics have frequently noted in *You Can't Go Home Again* evidence of an artistic turning point in Wolfe's later career, one in which he grew away from the inward-looking modernist aesthetics of writers such as Joyce and Proust to a greater emphasis on social realism.

In addition to two days of scholarly papers devoted to Wolfe and the West and other areas related to the writer's life and work, the Wolfe Conference will feature a dramatization of the correspondence between Thomas Wolfe and Idaho writer Vardis Fisher. The Society will also host its annual banquet at Leku Ona, featuring a keynote address by Dr. Tara Penry, Associate Professor of English at Boise State University and Acting Director of the Hemingway Western Studies Center. Other Conference activities will take place at the Grove Hotel in downtown Boise. Anyone interested in attending the conference or in learning more about Thomas Wolfe or the Wolfe Society can contact George Hovis, Society Vice President, at hovisgr@oneonta.edu. ♦

What Are You Reading?

In each issue of *Idaho Humanities*, several readers tell us what they've been reading and what they recommend.

Reader: Karin Davis, Burley
Occupation: Circulation Supervisor, Burley Public Library
Book: *A Patriot's Handbook: Songs, Poems, Stories, and Speeches Celebrating the Land We Love* by Caroline Kennedy



Caroline Kennedy's selections for this book span time, cultures, and politics. She offers a tremendous scrapbook of literary

Americana. I remembered many selections from school, but she introduced me to more selections than I had ever read. All prompted me to think about where America is, where we've been, and where we are going.

This is a magnificent land, and the book reflects that. Ronald Reagan's speech to the students of Moscow University in Russia after the disintegration of the Soviet Union could have been spoken to our own students in Moscow, Idaho, and to students around the world. "I Like Americans," written by Edna St. Vincent Millay, was brand new to me, and echoed my sentiments exactly. Page after page of Kennedy's book was exhilarating and encouraging.

Reader: Julie Whitesell Weston, Hailey
Occupation: Writer, author of *The Good Times Are All Gone Now: Life, Death and Rebirth in an Idaho Mining Town*
Book: *The Cat's Table*, a novel by Michael Ondaatje



Three boys traveling on a sea voyage without parents from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to England in the 1950's wind up at the cat's table—the farthest from the Captain's table—along with a

potpourri of guests not important enough for other tables. Mynah, one of the boys, tells the story of their adventures, ranging from wildly humorous to seriously dangerous. Their fierce bond of three weeks leads them between the decks and holds of the ship to lessons in jazz, literature, conspiracy, death and political brouhaha from their tablemates and others they encounter. Mynah's relationship with a beautiful older cousin sparks the first stirrings of desire.

As Mynah reflects on these experiences in a montage of present and past, the reader finds that little is as it appears on the surface. Through Ondaatje's exquisitely detailed observations of character and evocative writing, Mynah and the reader learn that truth can be spun like a roulette wheel, that beauty can sting as well as glow, and that not all mysteries can be solved, nor need they be.

Reader: Adam Sowards
Occupation: Associate Professor of History at the University of Idaho, Moscow
Book: *11/22/63* by Stephen King



Around the holidays, I generally need a break from historical and philosophical treatises. So this year I turned to a very different direction for me—the master of horror, Stephen King, and his newest book, *11/22/63*.

On the way to lightweight "fluff," though, I found a historical and philosophical novel. At least partially. *11/22/63* is the story of a man who goes back in time to stop the JFK assassination. Of course, time travel is tricky. As King writes numerous times, "The past is obdurate." It doesn't like to be changed. What better message for an historian?

I have enjoyed *11/22/63* for its story and King's pretty accurate sense of the past. But it has been most interesting to contemplate alternate histories and the larger notions about the changeability (or not) of the past.