

Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

In This Issue

May Day History Pg.1&2
Item Highlight Pg.2
Recent Donations Pg.3
Farmhouse Update Pg.4
Historical Recipe Pg.4

The Official Newsletter of the Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

May/2023

Board and Staff

Steve Westphal – President
Alex Kunkel – Vice President
Doug Lincoln – Treasurer
Teresa Sept- Media
Gary Kaufman- Projects
Patti Hurley – Secretary
Karen Olen – Board Member
Jane Anderson- Board Member
Gary Sipe – Board Member
Ashley Haycock – Administrator



The History of May Day

In many cultures it is tradition to celebrate the first day of May as the beginning of a new spring season. Celebrations often include children twirling colorful streamers around a may pole, “may baskets” full of flowers and candies being left on door steps, and the crowning of a “May Queen”.

However, during the height of the Industrial Revolution in America, the day would be given a much darker history. In the 1800’s, 16-hour work shifts were not uncommon and thousands of men, women, and children were dying each year from terrible work conditions and long hours. A convention of The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions was held in Chicago in 1884 to address the issue. They proclaimed that “Eight hours shall constitute a legal day’s labor from and after May 1st 1886.” The Knights of Labor joined the effort the following year and urged workers to strike.

On the first day of May in 1886, workers across the United States walked out of their jobs on strike to demand higher wages and the institution of the eight-hour workday. Mostly the protests were peaceful, but on May 3rd, violence broke out between Chicago law enforcement and strikers at the McCormick Reaper Works. Many workers were wounded and at least two were killed by the officers. A rally was held at Haymarket Square the next day in protest. When police attempted to disperse the crowds, a bomb was thrown, causing a chaos that resulted in the death of at least

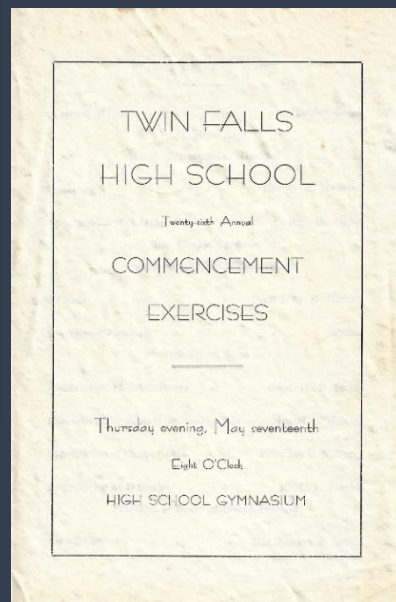
seven officers and eight workers.

Despite a lack of solid evidence, a controversial trial would sentence seven of the workers to death and one to a 15-year jail sentence. Four of the men were hanged for their crimes and one committed suicide. The remaining men would be pardoned six years later. News of the “Chicago Eight” spread to other countries and became “a rallying cry for labor activist around the world”.

May 1st became known as the International Workers Day and is an official holiday in 80 countries. In the U.S. where it all started, Labor Day was moved to the first Monday in September and May Day is rarely recognized.

Item Highlight

Maxine's Graduation Outfit



Maxine Leoma Gassner Moore was born in Richland, Iowa in 1916. She moved with her parents, Joe and Aletha Gassner to Idaho as a young child in the 1920's. They settled in Buhl where Maxine attended Syringa School before the family moved to Twin Falls in 1930. Maxine then attended the Twin Falls High School. She graduated in 1934 and chose this white linen suit set as her graduation outfit. We aren't sure if the pink blousette was worn underneath but was included in the donation. It could also have been paired with a classic 1930's blouse, perhaps with a bow detail at the neck or with an interesting hemline to peak out from the cropped blazer.

The next year in April 1935, Maxine would marry James Moore at her grandparents' house on Kimberly Road. The couple made their home in Twin Falls and went on to have four children. In 1996, the family celebrated Maxine's 80th birthday with a party at the Turf Club. It was attended by all of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren with every decade represented by a family member.

This set along with Maxine's diploma and other school items donated by her daughter, Julia Moore in 2016.

Unfortunately, we were not able to include a senior picture of Maxine. From what we've found, yearbooks made during the depression were often not bound as books and didn't include photos.

C. E. B. at "Camp Drinking C. E. B. Place" in lovely Hagerman Place" in Hagerman Valley where thousands of

Donations



A collection of Sweeley Family Photos was donated by Madeline Lanciani

Jane Anderson donated various items including some adorable vintage cards

A large anonymous donation included a collection of beautiful antique photo albums, lawyer's cabinets, vintage toys, and much more



Want to Donate?

Give us a call or stop by the museum if you are interested in donating an item with county history. Keep in mind we only accept permanent donations and be sure to include the history of the item and family if possible

... where thousands of
hurryng sheep come hurryng
for
water. Sunday - March 25 - 1923 Sunday - March 25 - 1923

Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum
Live History Day!
Saturday June 17, 2023
9am-4pm

For more information contact the Jerome County Historical Society Museum or visit their website
www.historicaljeromecounty.com

Farmhouse Update!



Repairs have continued on our 1930's farmhouse. The weather finally stayed consistently warm enough for cement to be poured in the living room where the flooring was removed. The cement extends under the walls to give the structure some much needed support. This process will be repeated in all three rooms in the building. A walkway was also poured to connect the back door to the crafts building beside it.



The Recipe's History

Poke cakes first appeared in the 1970's as an ad campaign to increase Jell-O sales. Jell-O Poke Cake recipes combined "convenience" foods and mixes like cake, pudding, Jell-O, and Dream Whip. This recipe uses strawberry Jell-O and vanilla pudding but any combination of flavors and colors can be used. The Cool Whip topping can also be tinted with food coloring to fit your color scheme

Jell-O Poke Cake

1 white cake mix
1 box of strawberry Jell-O
1 large pkg. vanilla pudding
Cool Whip

Mix cake as directed on box. Bake in a 13 x 9-inch pan. After baking poke holes in cake with a fork. Combine Jell-O with 1 cup boiling water. Pour over cake. Let cool in refrigerator. Prepare pudding as directed on box. Spread over cake. Spread Cool Whip on the top.