

Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

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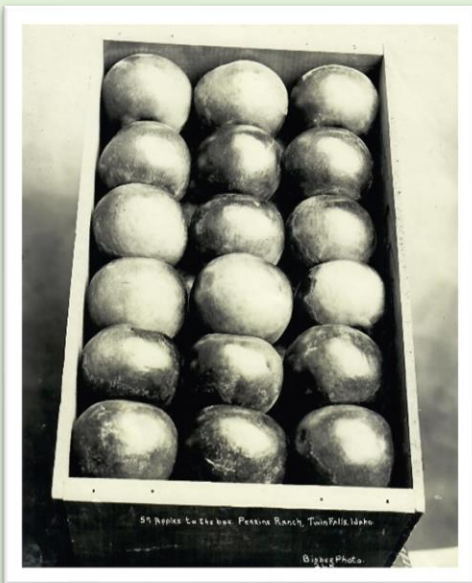
The Official Newsletter of the Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum



August 2024

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“57 Apples to a Box. Perrine Ranch, Twin Falls” Photo by Bisbee

The 1906 Twin Falls Fair

This excerpt comes from a Twin Falls News article published September 7, 1906. Despite doubts and hesitation from local farmers the fair was a success. The impressive crops and livestock proved a great advertisement for the Twin Falls area.

The 1906 fair was held on land donated by the Twin Falls Land and Water Company located on the corner of Shoshone and Second Avenue North where Westerra Real Estate and the Milner’s Gate restaurant are now located.

The full article names all categories and winners and can be found through the Twin Falls Public Library’s newspaper archives.

“The Twin Falls fair was a surprise to those who have observed the growth of the tract. It was a revelation to those who were unaware of what is being done on the largest irrigation tract in America. It astonished everybody, even the farmers and merchants who have observed the growth of the community for the past two years. In every respect it was highly creditable and well arranged.

Naturally, the farmers hesitated to bring in exhibits. They did not know what to expect and most of them waited to see what others would show. They knew their products were good, but they doubted the evidence of their own senses. Furthermore, they were busy threshing and harvesting and could ill spare the time necessary to make exhibits.

Withal the fair was an eye-opener, a startler, and a magnificent advertisement for the tract. To cover it in detail would require more space than is available...

Only one division failed to come up to the mark. Not a single sheep was exhibited. The farmers have not introduced sheep yet, but they have brought in high class cattle, horses, and swine.

Every department was well filled with exhibits, and some were overcrowded. One exhibit for which no prize was awarded was a monster sagebrush brought from Murtaugh by F. Lee Johnson. There was also a tall tobacco plant bearing no inscription to indicate whence it came.

Caryl Clyde showed a cabbage 24 inches in circumference and as solid as the national treasury. Judge Taylor had an excellent collection of garden products, including fine celery. Frank Weinheimer of Murtaugh displayed

a garden beet 30 inches in circumference.

Mrs. E.T. Miller of Kimberly exhibited an onion 16 inches in circumference. W.S. Starr of Kimberly had in his exhibit a potato 10 inches in circumference and 7 1/2 inches long.

Charles Eldred of Twin Falls brought in a mammoth squash 78 inches in girth and weighing 99 pounds. J.T. Willis exhibited a blue potato six inches long and 12 inches in circumference. F. Lee Johnson of Murtaugh exhibited sugar beets 32 inches long, 18 inches in circumference and weighing nine pounds.

Don Bryan showed timothy five feet high and three cuttings of alfalfa which could not be excelled. He also exhibited watermelons 14 inches long and 38 inches around which weighed 49 pounds.

W. Baker displayed a Yankee pumpkin 25 inches long and 34 inches in circumference. There were sweet potatoes, peanuts, and all sorts of garden (produce).

Judge Smith exhibited a number of specimens of Idaho game which he had mounted himself.

There was a superb display of copper ores from the Contact, Nevada camp and other ores from Cassia County.

John Adams of Oakley brought in samples of Cassia County fruits which astonished everybody. Mr. Hartwell of Roseworth, 35 miles southwest of Twin Falls exhibited a beautiful assortment of fruit.

I.B. Perrine made a magnificent display of Blue Lakes fruit which was raffled at the close of the fair for the benefit of the fair association which profited to the extent of \$93.

Item Highlight

The Perrine Wedding Shoe

Hortense McKay Perrine
1875-1947

This dainty silk slipper was worn by Hortense McKay for her wedding to Ira Burton Perrine in 1892.



The shoe was donated by Anabel Lusty, Hortense's granddaughter. The fate of the second shoe remains a mystery.

Hortense McKay was born in Fillmore, Utah in 1875. Her family moved to Hailey, Idaho in 1881 where her father, Don McKay, operated a hardware store. The family then resided in Raft River for a time before settling in Shoshone where they opened the Lincoln Hotel. It was here that Hortense met her husband, Ira Burton Perrine.

Perrine and his business partner, Tom Hyndman were running a tourist stagecoach line to the Shoshone Falls and hotel. He had filed a claim in the Snake River canyon in a valley he named "Blue Lakes" and established a small home and orchard on the site.

Hortense was attending Rowland Hall Episcopal Girl's School at the time, graduating in 1892. The two were married in June of the same year at her parent's home in Shoshone.

The two honeymooned in Salt Lake City before settling into Perrine's home at Blue Lakes.

Hortense was described as a gracious hostess and talented cook. Her obituary notes that she became known as "serving more meals to more noted persons than any other Idaho woman" with guest such as presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan's family and a son of railroad magnate, Jay Gould.

Victorian women often wore shoes much smaller than their foot size as small dainty feet were considered more attractive.

The sole on this slipper measures only two inches wide!



For more interesting shoes from our collection check out our display in the antiques building during the fair!

In 1905, Hortense held a "Peach Blossom Party" to celebrate the "first" spring of newly founded Twin Falls. She invited nine of Twin Falls' most notable women to enjoy an afternoon under the blossoming fruit trees at Blue Lakes.

Her Blossom Parties were held every spring for almost 20 years and became a favorite social event among the ladies of the area.

Hortense and Ira would go on to have four children, George Perrine, who tragically died at age four, Stella Perrine Haight, Ira Perrine Jr., and Eugene Perrine.

In an interview with Anabel Lusty, Hortense's granddaughter, she said one of her fondest memories of her grandmother was her knowledge of stars and constellations. It is said that Hortense named the Alpheus Creek at Blue Lakes after the river in Greek Mythology.

Donations



Scrapbooks donated by Melody Asher



Schoolbooks, toys, kitchen items, etc. donated by L.J. Smith

Fisher Price toys donated by Gary Sipe



Twin Falls Feed & Ice ice pick donated by Kenny Blick



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.

sheep come hurrying from the cliffs for
Sunday - March 25 - 1923



During World War II, over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated without due process of law. Although little remains of the barbed-wire fences and tar-papered barracks, the Minidoka concentration camp once held over 13,000 Japanese Americans in the Idaho desert.

Minidoka Field Trip!

Saturday September 14

Join us on a field trip to the Minidoka National Historic Site. If you are interested in joining us, please email a RSVP to info@twinfallsmuseum.org so we know how big the group will be. We are still working out details so stay tuned for more information! Updates will be posted on our website twinfallsmuseum.org.

September Lecture

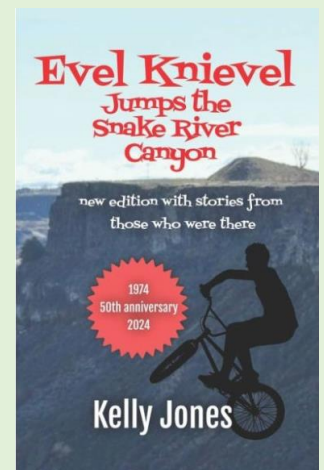
Evel Knievel Jumps the Snake River Canyon

Saturday September 7th at 1:00

Fifty years ago, on September 8, 1974, Evel Knievel launched his Skycycle over the Snake River Canyon, bringing international attention to the community of Twin Falls.

To commemorate the jump, author Kelly Jones presents her book, *Evel Knievel Jumps the Snake River Canyon*. Blending fact and fiction, the story was inspired by the event and those who witnessed it. Kelly will share insights on the writing process, what inspired her to tell the story, and the impact Evel's attempt to jump the canyon had on the people of Twin Falls.

Originally published in 2014 to commemorate the 40th anniversary, the newly released 50th-anniversary edition includes real stories based on interviews with those who were there in 1974. Both books will be available at the Museum.



We are scheduling speakers for our fall/winter lecture series. If you have a topic or speaker that you would like to see let us know! Send your recommendations to info@twinfallsmuseum.org