

Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

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The Official Newsletter of the Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

March 2025

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The Last Lookout on Dunn Peak

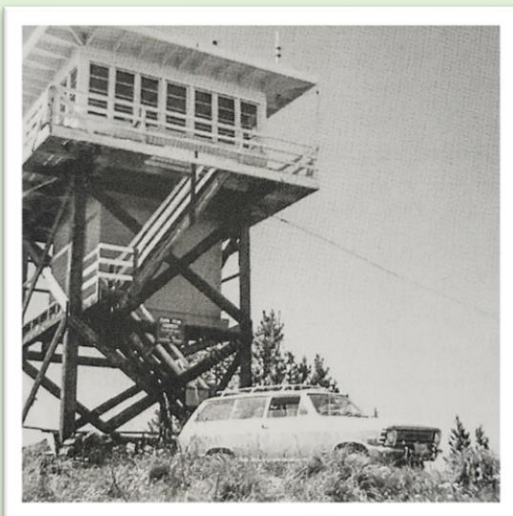
The following is an excerpt from Nancy Hammond’s book, *The Last Lookout on Dunn Peak*. Nancy will be at the museum Saturday, March 22nd, for a presentation and book signing. Don’t miss it!

“St. Maries woke all the lookouts at 3:30 AM, Wednesday, August 22. Lightning was on the way. Don dressed and made coffee. Roundtop radioed at 4:00 AM to ask if he’d spotted any strikes. ‘10-4, near Dunn Peak,’ Don replied.

I recognized the strain in Don’s voice. I dressed and grabbed a flashlight and Misty’s leash. “Come on, girl. We’re going to the outhouse while the getting’s good.”

All hell broke loose at 6:30 AM. “Wammo! Lightning,” Don logged. Thunder god Thor parked that hammering storm directly on top of Middle Sister Peak. Blinding flashes and deafening claps came so close together that they seemed to erupt from inside the windows. Wind gusts shook the tower. Misty and I curled together on the bed. We gave up any pretense of being battle-hardened veterans of Thor’s pounding barrages. I whispered in her ear that the howling wind wouldn’t blow the lookout over. “We’ll be okay,” I promised. “You gotta use your imagination.”

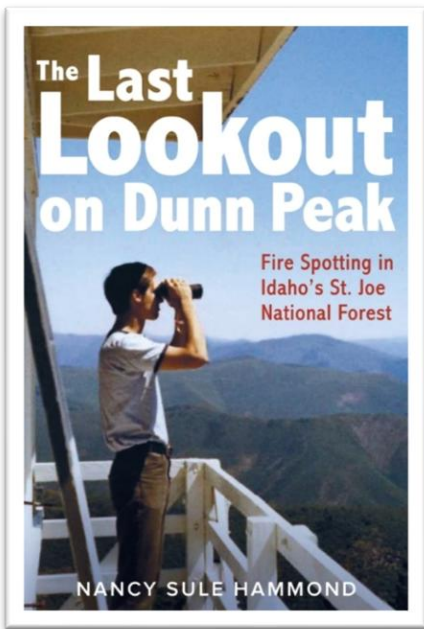
Don whirled around the Firefinder to align one rising smoke after the other. He narrowed the smoke’s location with sightings from the other lookouts, wrote the locations into the logbook, and radioed Avery. By 9:00 AM, he’d logged seven fires...



I watched in fear and wonder as a bolt of lightning struck a tall fir on East Sister Peak. The bolt was still attached when the tree's entire trunk glowed from the inside out like a red-hot charcoal briquette. The bolt pulled away and smoke tendrils curled in the air in seconds. Flames emerged and ate a hole in the bark. Two more direct hits ignited two more trees. The three torches shot red-orange flames high into the air. Fiery needles, cones, and branches dropped onto the forest floor. Yesterday's BI of 310 meant the flames could grow to thirty-one feet in length.

Don radioed Roundtop as calmly as he could muster. "Please prioritize East Sister's fire to the top of your list. Thank you. Middle Sister clear." The fire burned half a mile from the lookout, next to our only road off the mountain. I hoped that fast-flying, aqua-blue jet ranger was still on the St. Joe, in case we needed a lift off the mountain. I rechecked our emergency go-bag. Prenatal vitamins, check. Truck keys, check. My purse and Don's wallet, check, check. Mike's rifle, check." (The Last Lookout on Dunn Peak pg. 168 & 169)

March Lectures!



THE LAST LOOKOUT ON DUNN PEAK

Saturday, March 22nd 1:00

Narrow catwalks and stunning panoramas—a place where a single lightning strike could ignite a raging wildfire.

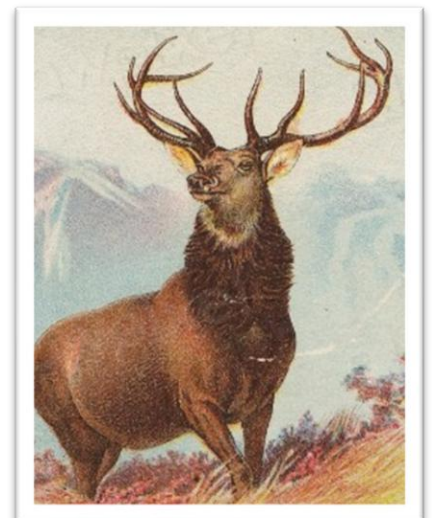
Join us March 22nd for a presentation and book signing with author Nancy Sule Hammond. *The Last Lookout on Dunn Peak* intersperses personal stories with regional fire history and the details and dangers of fire spotting.

Books will be available for purchase with cash or check. Copies can also be purchased on the Washington University Press website, wsupress.wsu.edu

Wildlife Migration in Southern Idaho

Saturday, March 29th 1:00

Sierra Robotcek, Idaho Fish & Game Wildlife Staff Biologist, will present on wildlife migration and the current status of big game in southcentral Idaho, with a focus on the Wood River Valley. Sierra holds an MS in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho, where her research focused on modeling pregnancy rates of elk in Idaho as a function of habitat quality and habitat use.



Item Highlight

Green Depression Glassware

During the Great Depression (1929-1939), families had little to no spare income for non-essential items such as glassware. Due to this, companies producing expensive cut crystal were in danger of going out of business.

In such a bleak time, glass companies needed a product that could be produced at a low cost, and folks needed something inexpensive and pretty to raise their spirits. Thus, depression glass was born.

Using machines, companies could cheaply mass-produce patterned glassware. They would then sell the products to businesses and companies to be given as a reward for loyal customers or an incentive to buy a product.

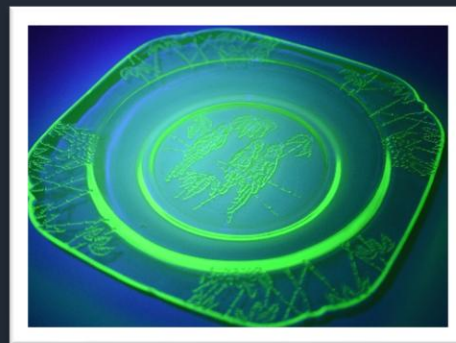
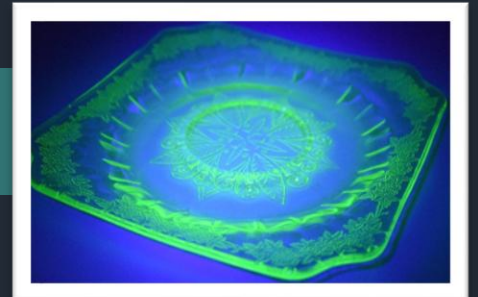
Depression glass comes in a rainbow of colors, the most common being pink, pale blue, green, and amber. In keeping with this month's holiday, we will be focusing on green pieces.

Some depression glass from this era has a unique ingredient that makes it even more popular with collectors.

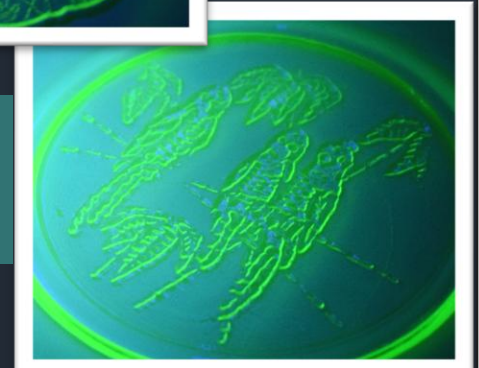
Uranium was first used in glassmaking around 1830. It made glass heat-resistant, gave it a vibrant color, and made the piece "glow."



Jeanette Glass Co.
Adam Pattern
1932-1934



Federal Glass Co.
Sylvan "Parrot"
Pattern
1931-1932



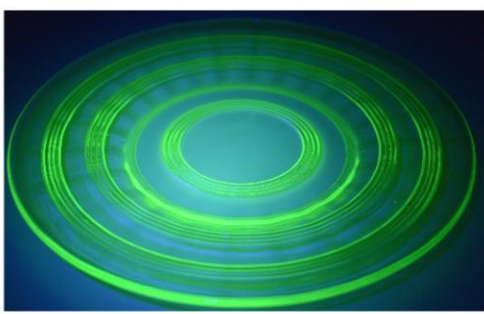
Hazel Atlas
Octagon shaker



Hazel Atlas
Ribbon
Pattern shaker



Anchor Hocking
Ring Pattern
1927-1933



Though not depression glass this small vase is a good example of glass with a higher uranium content. We estimate this piece dates from the mid to late 1800s.



This glass can contain anywhere from 2% to 25% uranium meaning the glass will fluoresce under ultraviolet light.

The higher the percentage, the brighter it will glow.

Now, obviously, uranium is radioactive, so is this glass dangerous? Not really.

It is not recommended to eat off uranium glass, and if a piece gets broken, it is important to avoid inhaling or ingesting any dust from it. But just having the pieces on display will create less radiation than the modern electronics in your home.

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

Donations

Vintage umbrellas
donated by J.L. Smith



Milling ball used to crush ore-bearing rocks donated by Lawrence Growney

A Big Thank You to Karen Hirai Olen for her generous monetary donation to the museum!

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.

water. Sunday - March 25

Fun Fact!

Ultraviolet light was first discovered in 1801 by the German physicist Johann Wilhelm Ritter. It is used in air purification, water treatment, and surface sterilization. UV light therapy for skin conditions dates back to the early 1900s.

Farmhouse Updates

The 1970s-style wood paneling in the farmhouse's bedroom was just not fitting our 1920s/30s timeframe! We are replacing the paneling with wainscot salvaged from the Pleasant View School/Knoll Grange building. Though not a perfect match, the wood is similar to that in the other rooms and will give a more historically accurate feel to the room.

The building will be closed until the project is completed but will reopen soon (if the weather cooperates)!



Before



After

We are looking for new cases. If you have information on where we could purchase lockable glass display cases, **let us know!**

Send us an email at info@twinfallsmuseum.org or give us a call at 208-736-4675.