

# STABLEHAND NEWS

Winter 2024

Issue # 20



*An organization of volunteers who are "Fostering knowledge and understanding of the history in the Seeley Lake area."*

## 2023 Accomplishments

### Join, Support, Enjoy

Your **support** is critical for our museum's success.

How can you support us?

#1 - Join..... there are levels of membership from family to lifetime.

#2 - Volunteer..... help with a project, docent or join the board.

#3 - Displays..... suggest ideas for seasonal or rotating displays, create or loan items for a particular display, or come and visit the museum.

### Eggs and Bacon

This stall will be housing short term displays. The current one will be in place until the end of July. Using family items of the board of directors, we have created a military display of WWI and WWII uniforms, memorabilia,

- ◆ *Reorganization of three stalls (the names ie. Beans and Ham, etc are the names of horses who lived in the stalls:*

- **Beans and Ham:** We reorganized this stall to include both the Jocko Lakes and the Rice Ridge fire maps, and the history of Smokejumping in Seeley Lake. The idea of smokejumpers was test driven at Winthrop WA, but the training center was established in Seeley Lake at Camp Paxson, during WWII with conscientious objectors.



- **Popcorn and Peanuts:** Not only was Seeley Lake named after Jasper Seely (correct spelling.) Jasper was the first US Forest Service ranger. Seeley Lake was the site of the first ever USFS logging job in 1905. The display is rounded out with photos of early day loggers and their living environment

souvenirs, photos, and more. We will be hosting an open house following the Friends and Families of Veterans Memorial Day celebration.



## Seeley Trivia

1. The original name for Pine Street?
2. What was the original name for the Seeley Lake Homesites by the elementary school?
3. How many acres was the Double Arrow Ranch at its largest?

## Movie Night Schedule

As an introduction to our new burgeoning relationship with our indigenous neighbors to the west we are going to show the PBS series "The American Buffalo." The first installment of the series, movie night is Sunday March 3, @ 7pm and the second installment, Sunday March 10, @ 7pm.

## New Signage

We have applied for a micro grant from Missoula County



- **Thunder and Lightning:** The tools used by early loggers, including an early two man chain saw, are displayed along with photos of the old ways of logging. The stall then transitions to the 1920's style of resorts. The Tamaracks and Double Arrow Resorts are still in business today.

- ◆ *Building storage in the common room:* A system of cupboards has been built to house the folding chairs, media equipment and a small amount of storage for annual users. The top of the chair cupboard has an area for a seasonal display curated by our docent Jana Phipps. If you have items or an idea for future displays please contact her at the museum.



- ◆ *Basic housecleaning and organization:* We had an additional shed built onto the end of our garages to store the community stage, lawn mower and lumber for displays. As part of this organization, we worked on stall #4 to make room for the Chamber of Commerce totes while they are in reorganization mode.
- ◆ *4th of July:* The Seeley Lake Historical Museum and Visitor Center took over the organization of the 4th of July with Tom Browder leading the charge. Since the "Barn Board" is mostly made up of the Historical Society board members, we were heavily involved. If you have an idea for the 4th 2024, please share.
- ◆ *Recreating the manger displays:* To create a better visual experience while viewing the contents of the mangers in the stalls, we have been adding lighting. As it is a work in

and one from the SL Community Foundation to update our highway signage. Currently our sign faces south and we want to increase visibility with two direction signage.



### Walk n Talk

January's 'Walk n Talk' focused on the buildings that were part of the "original" part of town from Morrell Creek Road to the liquor store and the buildings that transitioned



from them to what you see today.

You can take the tour by going to [SeeleyHistory.org/museum](http://SeeleyHistory.org/museum). Scroll down the page to the blue DOWNTOWN button and click on it. This will open the PDF.

1. Stoway Lane
2. Inverness Heights
3. 9000 acres

progress, there are several styles while we find one that is both effective and affordable. We have been adding hinges to the manger lids to facilitate updating and cleaning.



- ◆ *Fort Missoula Grant:* Fort Missoula is blessed with a mill levy from the county. They do have an opportunity for grants to the small county museums and we applied for one to add a back porch to the Maloney cabin. We hope to include a clothesline, kitchen garden, and repurpose the outhouse into a tool display.
- ◆ *Teaching immigrant cooking to the 4th grade:* 4th grade social studies included immigration to Montana. How and why did different ethnic groups migrate here. To add a bit of interest to this program Steve and Cheri Thompson are teaching cooking. Starting with Native Americans, and using bison, chokecherries and different native dried fruits the program was off to a great start with fry bread tacos. Next came the English as they migrated from the 13 colonies and shepherds pie and singing hinnies were on the menu. The Chinese came with both mining and railroads and orange chicken, beef and carrots both over rice and rice pudding for dessert. Christmas brought the POW's of WWII, Italians. To honor them lunch was pizza, cannolis and gelato. Over half the class made pizza over Christmas vacation.
- ◆ *Miscellaneous:* Thanks to Pat Donich the building was chinked and the garden weeded. An original table and chairs from the Tamarack were donated, and movie nights continued. A start was made on our new relationship with our neighbors to the west. See Dea and Ron's article, next.

Photo credits: Jana Phipps

## *The Historical Society on Social Media*

Or: Where the past meets the modern internet.

If you have fond memories of Seeley Lake back in the days of the 1980s (and the 90s, and the 60s, and yes, even 2006 is history now) and the people who lived here, the place to go on Facebook is the Seeley Lake Historical Society page. We post at least twice every week—with one of Eddie Coyle's photographs on Wednesdays, and the original Picture of the Week on Fridays. And usually more often than that, depending on the whims of both inspiration and It Came From the Storage Room.

It is also a place where we have been able to post some of the many unlabeled and unidentified photographs we have in our collection. Thanks to our readers, we have been able to add names to more than a few of these pictures, a trend we hope will continue in the future.

So if you're not already there, come see us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SeeleyLakeHistoricalSociety>

(And perhaps, soon, on Instagram? Stay tuned!)

## *Our Neighbors to the West*

The Flathead Indian Reservation is over the mountains west of Seeley Lake. It is home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes. The tribes are a combination of the Salish, the Pend d'Oreille and the Kootenai.

The Clearwater valley has been occupied by the Salish people for thousands of years. Tribal elders still remember many of their traditional names for places on modern maps.

Place names demonstrate a relationship the the land. Selis is pronounced SEH-leesh. It is usually written in English as 'Salish.' Their territories extend from the Bitterroot Mountains and the present-day border between Montana and Idaho to the Yellowstone, Musselshell, and upper Missouri drainage systems far east of the Continental Divide. Frequent use-areas reached even further, at least as far as the Bighorn River (Bighorn Sheep's Waters).

The following list contains modern names, an attempt at the Selis spelling and the Selis interpretation of the place.

### **Clearwater Country & the Selis People Places\***

**Swan River**- Snlaqi Sewłk (w)s - SWEATHOUSE'S WATERS

**Site of the Swan Massacre** - Epł Timu () - HAS SKUNK CABBAGE

**Holland Prairie** - Epł itx(w)e() – HAS CAMAS

**Summit Lake Area** - Epł Q(w)omqn – HAS HAIR (TREE LICHEN)

**Seeley Lake** - Epł Ćix(w)ćx(w)t – HAS OSPREYS

**Outlet at Seeley Lake** - Epł X(w) yú / Ep Stqép – HAS MOUNTAIN WHITE FISH, HAS DAM

**Trail Creek/Morrell Creek area** - Xqcné – CLEARING BY WATER

**Upper Jocko Lake** - Čłsusuwene() – REFERRING TO THE WATER RECEDING

**Slippery John/Grouse/Buck Cr Confluence** - EP Sqeymn - HAS TIPI POLES

**Beavers Creek near confluence with Placid Creek** - Sntlqla - PLACE OF SWEATHOUSES

**Placid Lake** - Čłqlle – REFERRING TO WATER

**Ridge south of Placid Lake** - Smxečs()ičn - GRIZZLY BEAR RIDGE

**SLHS - Salish Visit**

In autumn of last year, October 2023, the SLHS was fortunate to receive a visit from respected members of the Salish tribe who came over from St. Ignatius to meet with us. The gathering was opened by the grandmother elders with smudging and prayers. A warm conversation followed where we began to consider ways to connect with and share important information that the tribe has lived, understood, and named about this area for thousands of years. The tribe gifted us with a publication produced by the Selis-Qlispe Culture Committee, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes called **Names Upon the Land – An Ethnogeography of the Salish and Kalispel People: A Portfolio of Maps and Signs**. We've included a few of the local area's names from that compilation for you and encourage you to further explore this rich ancient history. Over time, it's our hope to continue these conversations with our neighbors to the West, and to co-create and feature an exhibit at SLHS that represents Salish history, values, and their historic use of the Seeley-Swan area.

**Join Join Join Join Join Join**

We want to share our history and crazy facts with you. How can we if you don't join and we have your contact information. Find the form on the back page.

**Hill SW of Placid Lake - Mq(w)cne - LONE MOUNTAIN BY WATER**

**Head of Salmon Lake - So()lí - PERSONAL NAME**

**Ridge west of Salmon Lake - Epl Msawye - HAS VALERIAN ROOT**

**Blanchard Lake - Sewsúllk(w) - DEEP WATER**

**Hill above Blanchard Lake - Lmq(w)cne - LITTLE ROUND HILL**

**Clearwater Junction/Blanchard Creek - Ččnpá - PERSONAL NAME**

**Clearwater Blackfoot confluence - N()emtétk(w) - WOMAN SITTING IN WATER**

**Ovando Monture Creek – Sntntnmaqá - PLACE WHERE YOU RUN YOUR HORSE BACK**

**Ninemile Prairie - Snp ()mqne - RIDGE ENDING AT A FLAT**

**SOURCE - NAMES UPON THE LAND –**

**Ethnogeography of the Salish and Kalispel People**

**A PORTFOLIO OF MAPS AND SIGNS** - published by Séliš-Qłispé Culture Committee, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

(This map compilation and resource is housed at the Seeley Lake Historical Society)

\*Apologies that we have been unable to accurately portray many of the Salish and Qlispe's Dialect alphabet notations with the keyboard used here for bringing forth this legend.



**FREE Movie Night**  
**Saturday**  
**April 27, 2024**  
**7pm @ the barn**  
**(Seeley Lake Historical Museum)**

*Certain Women* is a 2016 American film, Four women striving to forge their own paths amidst the wide-open plains of the American Northwest. Based on "Native Sandstone", "Travis, B." and "Tome"—three short stories from Maile Meloy's collections *Half in Love* and *Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It*—it stars Laura Dern, Kristen Stewart, Michelle Williams, Lily Gladstone, James Le Gros, and Jared Harris.

Presented by the Seeley Lake Historical Society  
 Popcorn provided, BYOB

Make check payable to "Seeley Lake Historical Society" or "SLHS"  
TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD: <http://shop.seeleyhistory.org/category.sc?sortOrder=-2>

LIFETIME OR MEMORIAL/LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS \_\_\_\_\_ Pioneer @ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Trailblazer @ \$250

BASIC MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ Individual @ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family @ \$30

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Seeley Lake Historical Society Membership Form  
mail to 2920 Highway 83 South, Seeley Lake MT 59868-8605  
(Please provide any contact information that has changed.)

Seeley Lake Historical Society  
2920 Highway 83 South,  
Seeley Lake MT 59868-8605