

# POST FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2025/2026



**Paul Kent Helmer**

1935-2025

Post Falls Businessman, Post Falls City Council Member,  
Post Falls Mayor

Kootenai County Commissioner

**Post Falls Historical Society Charter Member**

### AN AMERICA250-ID SALUTE TO A LEADER WHO LEFT HIS MARK ON POST FALLS!

Kent Helmer brought his sense of family, community, and business acumen from Rosalia, WA to Post Falls. Kent was a graduate of WSU, and had served in city government and business in Rosalia before moving here.

Kent wasn't the first county commissioner from Post Falls or the first mayor, but as we review our town's past, his positivism and his inclusive view of people and projects have inspired Post Falls to this day. As we reflect on our sense of community, Kent Helmer and City officials worked on improving water, sewer, roads and streets, but had time to lend support to various groups and organizations, including the efforts of a fledgling Post Falls Historical Society in 1988.

*(continued on page 3)*

Although the museum is now closed for the season, we continue to host special events and tours. A group of 12 homeschoolers visited the museum on Nov. 21st and we are scheduled to have a school group visit on Dec. 11th. We are open during Winterfest (see page 5) and invite our members and friends to bring their favorite Christmas cookies to share. There will be vintage and collectible ornaments available for a suggested donation to the museum, including Star Trek collectibles. If you have ornaments you would like to share for this fundraiser, please bring them on Dec. 5th or contact the Society to arrange for pick up.

### Annual meeting set for Jan. 28th

Although the board meets monthly, all members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting held each January.

The annual meeting is an opportunity to catch up on what's new with the society, greet fellow members, meet others, and vote on board members and officers for the upcoming year. If you're interested, you can join in the fun and be part of the board yourself.

The meeting is scheduled for **5 p.m. Jan. 28th in the meeting room of the Post Falls Library**. Everyone is invited to attend – it's a good way for new members to get to know the officers and the organization. It could also be a great time to renew your membership for 2026 if you haven't already done so!

Hope to see you there!



Learn all about our activities at [postfallsmuseum.org](http://postfallsmuseum.org) or on our Facebook page!

*All contents ©2025 Post Falls Historical Society*



## **America250-ID by Kimberly Rice Brown**

### **Past President, Post Falls Historical Society, Volunteer America250-ID Chair**

We have "SO MUCH" to celebrate as we reflect on the "Shot Heard 'Round the World", and the upcoming America250 celebration of our Declaration of Independence. Post Falls has been a part of our Nation's story. Post Falls natives and newcomers are all a part of the American Story!

250 years ago, the Coeur d' Alene Tribe (Schitsu'umsh) was living, raising families and surviving on the land we now call Post Falls. No electricity, cars, social media, stores, fast food, air conditioning or furnaces. The Native villages that dotted the rivers and lakes, also included one near our falls, which they called "Q'emiln."

**By the mid 1650s, many of our residents had family in the British colonies, families who fought in the American Revolution, families who settled the territories and states as they moved West, and families who have been involved in our military.**

Those seeds remain alive today and some are at rest in the Evergreen Cemetery and elsewhere. Some of our early businessmen and leaders had names like Abraham Lincoln Hawthorne and Benjamin Franklin Brigger.

So how can you get involved in the America250-ID Celebration, old timers and newcomers alike?

Share your family, veteran, farming, home recipes, outdoor adventures and business histories with the Post Falls Historical Society with their oral history program,

"Their Story", a program sponsored by the Idaho Historical Society. Visit their website: <http://hannalore.hein@ISHS.idaho.gov> or leave a message at (208)262-9642. Preserve your photos, stories and tidbits for the future. Share them, if you desire.

Work on your family's history with the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Sons of American Revolution. See their website information at [www.dar.org/](http://www.dar.org/) or [www.sar.org/](http://www.sar.org/). Check with our local VFW and American Legion veteran groups for their work to honor our veterans and share our heritage.

**Enjoy the rich history of our town, past and present. Post Falls is a part of the nation's history, and is now the 9<sup>th</sup> largest city in Idaho. Get involved in projects underway.**

**\*\*\*Post Falls Heritage Festival, May 30, 2026, Check in with the Post Falls Chamber and JACC.**

**\*\*\*Work on an America 250 Monument to Our Heritage: Project with the PF Historical Society, volunteer groups and citizens (TBA)**

**\*\*\*Check the America250-ID website, <https://America250-ID>**

**\*\*\*Interview family and friends through the "Their Story" oral history platform, <http://hannalore.hein@ISHS.idaho.gov>**

## **Post Falls Historical Society Board of Directors**

### ***Officers:***

*President:* Catherine McClintick

*Vice President:* Brian Watkins

*Secretary:* Kim Brown

*Treasurer:* Carol Yost

### ***Board Members:***

Joe Butler

Judy Cowan

Cindy Mead

Louise Paulson

Jane Robertson

Gavin Villarreal

Ted Fredekind (Emeritus)

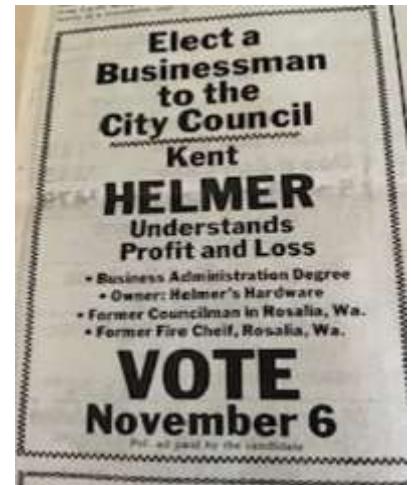
(Kent Helmer....continued from page 1.)



POST FALLS COMMUNITY CENTER is the new building for a new building which will house City offices. Located at Fifth and Spokane Streets, the and city offices are expected to be moved on April 15. Final interior and exterior touches being put in order this week in preparation for the move.

The first constructed City Hall at 5<sup>th</sup> and Spokane Street was labeled the Post Falls Community Center. (CDA Press, June 30, 1984.)

Kent Helmer served our town when Post Falls had a population of 5,700.



Kent Helmer would jump down from his ladder while stocking shelves at Helmer's Hardware to give you the time of day. His face always seemed to carry a smile.

His staff included Elmarie Waterhouse, a longtime resident and businesswoman, and Doris Schoenburg, a woman who farmed on Carpenter Loop in the Pleasantview area. I had the opportunity of picking up raw milk from Doris' car parked at Helmer's Hardware.

*(as recalled by Kimberly Rice Brown)*

History quietly places people in our memories to be shared for the future.

Today, the Helmer Hardware location is home to Family Dollar, 317 E. Seltice Way, Ste. A, Post Falls, Idaho

Other Post Falls mayors who were Charter members of the Society include:

Francis Wilhelm, Don Kamps, Cecil Meyer

Information compiled by Kimberly Rice Brown  
America250-ID Committee Chair  
Post Falls Historical Society

## Grateful appreciation to these 2025 new and renewing members!

Ed & Julie Adamchak Avista Ron & Sally Barnett Donna Rae Bradley <b>Lew &amp; Kim Brown</b> Fay Carpenter Michelle Fansler * John & Nancy Frazey <b>Ted Fredekind</b> Waylon & Laura Harness <b>Scot Haug *</b> Roxanna Johnson Elaine Kimball	Ken & Sue Koentopp Terry & <b>Catherine McClintick</b> <b>Cindy Mead</b> Warren & Dana Merritt Steve & <b>Melody Moretz *</b> John & Nancy Nation Richard Nordstrom Fred & Mary Ostermeyer, Managed Resources Chris Pappas Marvin Patzer <b>Louise Paulson</b> Jeanie Cooper Peery, Chief	Seltice Mobile Park Peery Family Chief Seltice Mobile Park Lisa Peterson Frank & Jeannie Peugh Post Falls Community Ambassadors Post Falls Lions Club Debra Raymer John & Teresa Reynolds <b>Jane Robertson</b> Pam Rodkey Royal Neighbors Post Falls	Shelley Ruff David & Paige Russell * Suzanne Schmidt Robert & Marilyn Shay <b>Susan Snodderley *</b> Ryan & Katie St Marie Gavin Villarreal * Brian Watkins <b>Carol Yost</b>
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**\*Welcome new members!**  
**Names in bold indicate Museum**  
**volunteers**

### ***Preserve Your Family Recipes or Food Memories***

**\*Share your warm memories of FOOD, the time, story, the special people or family involved.**

**\*Why do you enjoy this food or what memory is associated with a location?**

**\*Have you altered or revised the recipe?**

Some possibilities to consider: **Christmas or Thanksgiving at Grandma's**    *Birthday Food or Cake Memory*

**Favorite fast food your Mom tried to make**    *Family event with homemade food or potluck*

Or any other food memory you would like to share

Contact the Post Falls Historical Society with:

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Family member \_\_\_\_\_

Recipe \_\_\_\_\_,

handwritten, taken from a book, recorded from memory (please circle one)

Are you interested in a compiled Post Falls Food Memory Book? Contact the Post Falls Historical Society for more details, call 208-262-9642 or email [postfallshistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:postfallshistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

**\*Do you have a favorite or special food served at an historic eatery in Post Falls and a food memory associated with it?** Examples of Post Falls eateries include:

The Post Café    *The Spot*    The Falls Club    *Don's Pool Hall*  
The Slab Inn    *The Rocket Drive In*    Rob's Seafood and Burgers  
*Bob's 21 Club*    Breezy Point    *TJ's Pantry*    Others?

### ***Would you like to join the Historical Society?***

Support from our members allows us to keep the Post Falls Museum open and educate the community.  
Members also receive free admission to several other museums statewide, plus a great newsletter.

Join or renew today!

***The Post Falls Historical Society is a 501(c)3 volunteer non-profit organization sharing and preserving local history since 1988.***

*The board meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome and attendance is also available by Zoom meeting.*

❄️

# VISIT THE

## Post Falls Museum

during

### Post Falls **Winterfest** Plaza Market

❄️

Friday, December 5th, 2025 4 - 8 PM

*Bring Your Family & Friends*

**Free Entry  
~  
Donations  
Welcome**

- Vintage ornaments available
- Music
- Cookies
- Come in to warm up!
- Celebrate history & traditions

❄️

101 E 4th Avenue, Post Falls, Idaho




## Logan Creighton Presents The Shepherd of Bethlehem



What might it have been like to be out in the fields near Bethlehem the night of Christ's birth? We might never know exactly but we can make an educated guess based on historical evidence. Come join us for a special Christmas presentation of the Shepherd of Bethlehem. While this is a fictitious character, it will hopefully give you insight as to what it might have been like that special silent night.

This presentation will be given by Logan Creighton who is renowned for his ability to make history come alive. Wearing authentic garb, Logan will enthrall you with stories of first century Bethlehem. This is as close to time travel as you can get. This presentation free and is appropriate for all ages (donations appreciated).

**When:** December 13th at 10 am

**Where:** His Place Church  
3079, E 16th ave, Post Falls  
In the sanctuary.



### ***Our Historical Society Mission:***

WE **collect** photographs, stories, memories, oral video histories, veterans' information, and artifacts.

WE **preserve** our information in files, in our Past Perfect museum software (a work in progress), in historic signage, and in our newsletter publications.

WE **share** our history at the Post Falls Museum with students, visitors, and newcomers.

We **share** history with online researchers, in historic presentations, and in writing.

**Our VOLUNTEERS work to achieve all of the above.**

**Please join us in supporting this important work.**

# ***Join the Post Falls Historical Society Today!***

Membership in the society allows us to keep our museum open and available to the community.

*Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join as well!*

**Together we can preserve our past for the future.**

Make membership/renewal checks payable to:

**Post Falls Historical Society**

Mail to:

Post Falls Historical Society

PO Box 57

Post Falls ID 83877

\_\_\_ **2025 Membership**

\_\_\_ **2026 Membership**

☐ **Renewal** - *Thank you!*

☐ **New Member** - *Welcome!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level: (Check one)

I'm interested in helping!

\_\_\_ Individual \$20

\_\_\_ Board Member

\_\_\_ Museum Host

\_\_\_ Family \$30

\_\_\_ Education

\_\_\_ Other:

\_\_\_ Business/Contributor \$100

\_\_\_ Events and Activities

***Visit the Post Falls Historical Society Museum at 101 E 4th Ave, Post Falls***

***Contact Information: Museum: (208) 262-9642***

***postfallshistoricalsociety@gmail.com***

***postfallsmuseum.org***