

## David Thompson Bicentennial

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David spent time talking to 'the Chief' to learn about the surrounding countryside. According to Indian story lore "the Chief" was the chief of the fishery, or salmon tye, named See-wheh-ken, a name the white men had trouble pronouncing. David inquired about the availability of birchbark for canoe building, but had to settle for cedar planks again for making canoes.

After visiting the main Indian settlement close to the falls David wrote "This Village is built of long sheds of about twenty feet in breadth...built of long boards which some how they had contrived to split from large Cedars drifted down the River, partly covered with the same and with Mats, so as to withstand the Rain; each Shed had many cross poles for smoke drying the Salmon as they have no salt". And he later continued "At this Village were Natives from several of the surrounding Tribes, as a kind of general rendezvous for News, Trade and settling disputes".

David regretted that he and his party had arrived five days too late to see the Indian dances and ceremonies that were held in honor of the summer salmon run at the falls. Each day he was presented with salmon to eat, which was a welcome change from horse meat. He reported seeing "immense numbers of fish leap up the cascades" and had many questions about their spawning. In his diary he sketched a salmon and wrote "It is a curious question; the Indians of the Columbia River, who are keen observers of the myriads of five species of this fish, believe that no Salmon spawns twice, he only leaves the salt water Ocean never to return to it."

Encampments of visiting families and bands spread out from the main settlement and along both banks of the Columbia River. David and his party met Sanpoils, "A tute a naugh gones" (Okanogans), some Kootenai and Iroquois, and other French Canadian "free hunters".

It was finally time to leave Kettle Falls and continue the journey down the Columbia River towards the ocean. The party had a new plank canoe loaded with fresh horse meat, forty-four pounds of tobacco and a small assortment of trade goods to distribute as gifts and exchange for food. They also carried three bales of beaver, bear, and cougar pelts that were to be used in case a trading ship was encountered at the mouth of the river.

According to The Mapmaker's Eye "On the morning of July 3, 1811, the surveyor picked up a notebook in which he had previously jotted notes on canoe building and salmon rituals, turned it upside down, and labeled the back page:

Voyage to the Mouth of the Columbia River by the Grace of God 1811 by D. Thompson & 7 Men on the part of the NW Company"

A Sanpoil couple David had met at the Falls were accompanying the party to act as interpreters. They would be able to introduce the white men to the Indians downstream. And the rest of the journey began.



## McBride's Auto, Truck, Marine and RV Repair

By Peggy Mandin

Owned and operated by Rod McBride, this repair shop is a "Full Service" four bay facility that McBride had built on his property after moving to this area. With 33 years of experience McBride offers a long list of services; he stated that sometimes it is easier to say "the only things we don't do is tires and alignments". Their forte is diagnostic work and service for the electronics and computerized engine control, transmission management functions, ignition and fuel systems that now make working on your own car virtually impossible. Here is a short list of services offered at McBride's:

- Minor to Major Repairs
- Maintenance Services
- General Services
- Brakes
- Undercar Service and Repair
- Heating and Cooling Service and Repair
- Air Conditioning
- Electrical Services
- Transmission Service and Repair
- Tune-ups
- Electronic Services
- Troubleshooting and Diagnostic Services
- Engine Service and Repair
- Towing Service Available
- Marine Services and Repair
- Miscellaneous Services, which includes



just about everything except tires and alignments

While it is impossible to describe here what all these services entail it can be said that McBride's goal is to repair and/or service a vehicle correctly the first time using high quality replacement parts, filters, oils and components and charging affordable prices. His philosophy is that he is "here to make a living, not a fortune". He also stated that his "prices are well under all the other full service shops in the area".

McBride has a certain way he thinks about his work. He approaches each job "as if he were doing it for a relative", meaning that he intends to do a thorough servicing by "really looking at a car". This "looking" is designed to

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## Kettle Falls Historical Center Announces Student Art and Writing Contest

contributed by Kathy Berrigan

This spring the Kettle Falls Historical Center is sponsoring its 14th annual Art and Writing Contest open to all students in grades 7 through 12 in Stevens and Ferry Counties.

This year's theme for artwork and writing is Northwest Exploration/David Thompson, which applies to all categories. The deadline for written entries will be Saturday, April 16, 2011, and an entry form must accompany each entry. Written entries must be received at the Historical Center, located 3.5 miles west of Kettle Falls, between 1 and 5 p.m. on Friday, April 15 or on Saturday, April 16, between 10 and 2, if not mailed in earlier.

Art entries can be brought to the Historical Center on Friday, April 29 from 1-5 p.m. or Saturday, April 30 from 10-2. Call 509-738-6601 or 509-738-2827 for other arrangements, for entry forms, or for answers to questions you may have.

For all age groups, prizes and honorable mentions are offered in four art categories: Paintings/Drawings, Photography, Sculpture and Other Handcrafted Art. There are three writing categories for grades 9-12: Short Stories, Essays and Poetry. Short Stories and Poetry are the two

categories open to grades 7-8. First prize is \$50, second prize \$25 and third prize \$15 for each high school category. Seventh and eighth grade entrants will vie for \$25 first prize, \$15 second prize and \$10 third prize in each of their categories. Judging will be done by May 6.

Entries will be displayed at the Historical Center on the last three weekends in May. A People's Choice award will also be given to the student whose entry has the most votes by visitors to the Center. Prizes and award certificates will be given to the winning students at their individual school awards program.

The Kettle Falls Historical Center welcomes this opportunity to showcase student artists and authors. This is also the first of local planned events calling attention to explorer David Thompson.

The Historical Center will gratefully accept any cash donations from businesses or individuals to go toward prize awards. Anyone interested in membership in the Kettle Falls Historical Center and a newsletter can join with \$20 dues for a family or \$15 for an individual membership, sent to PO Box 498, Kettle Falls.

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