

With the 2010 voting now in full campaign mode. We here at the Kettle Falls Focus thought it would be timely to reprint the Article from the May 2010 issue about the history of the Kettle Falls Grouch

Grouch History

by Peggy Mandin

Since its campaigning time again for the privileged title of Kettle Falls Grouch it seems a good time to look at how the Grouch tradition got started. The following information came from Kathy Labret and Anadee Synder who were involved in starting the whole thing.

In 1985 Kathy worked as manager at Rainier National Bank in Kettle Falls, where City Hall is now located. She was vice president of the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber was a tight, energetic and fun-loving group. At one of their meetings at Freddie's (now KC's) the members, including Dick Hurst, Ron Synder (Chamber president), Gig Labret, and Jerry Davis, as well as Kathy and Anadee (Chamber Secretary/Treasurer) came up with the idea of a town grouch.

There were quite a number of "characters" in Kettle Falls at the time, walking and driving the streets. One particular "character" was pretty mean. As his behavior grew impossible to ignore talk about him increased. His presence around town fostered the idea of a town grouch.

At one of their meetings The Chamber members decided to hold a "rigged contest" for town grouch. They did not want to choose the real "character" for a number of reasons, but agreed to select Dean McIntosh, because he always had a sour look on his face whenever they saw him at his place of business, McIntosh Hardware. In truth, Dean was a "beloved man" and "all the rest of us enjoyed him immensely". That didn't stop the campaign.

While Anadee and Ron were out setting up jars declaring "Dean for Grouch, 25 cents per vote", Fran Bolt (who worked for Ron and Anadee at the time) and Anadee were ordering T-shirts for Kettle Falls Grouch and Grouch runner-up. Ron had made comments that there would be nothing worse than winning runner-up because it would be like getting second place in an "ugly person contest".

On the Saturday of the Town and Country Days parade Fran and Anadee counted the money raised during the campaign; it amounted to \$79.00. Dean McIntosh, who was the only one people were asked to vote for, was declared the first annual Kettle Falls Grouch. In a surprise move, Ron Synder was declared the Kettle Falls Grouch Runner-Up. Anadee, who was in the perfect position to take pictures, captured the "totally surprised" look on Ron's face when this was announced. Both were presented with Grouch and Runner-Up T-shirts and baseball hats.

The Grouch "election" was touted as the only honest and true election in the country because it openly encouraged buying votes, cheating and stuffing the ballot box. The more money collected during the course of the campaign the better.

News of the Kettle Falls Grouch was reported in the local paper. Eventually Kathy was getting phone calls at the bank regarding the election. Even national newspapers in places such as New York, Boston and Arizona were picking up the story. The news of the Grouch spread fast.

Grouch candidates are now encouraged to use any and all underhanded means to win the grumpy battle, meaning collect money. All monies raised go toward the next year's Town and Country Days. Of course, the main goal is for candidate and voters to have fun!

To learn more about the Grouch tradition go to the city's website at www.kettlefalls.com.

In addition, the Kettle Falls signs at each end of town resulted from the whole grouch idea. The Chamber of Commerce commissioned Mike Somerlott to paint the first "1550 Friendly People and 1 Grouch" sign on the south end of town. According to Kathy, the Chamber had an idea what they wanted for the sign, but she doesn't remember who sketched out the actual design. The second sign on the other side of town wasn't completed until several years later. Is there anyone out there who can fill in the gaps for us? We will print any new or additional information in the June issue of the Kettle Falls Focus.

Kettle Falls 'Grouch' Timeline

- Britta Chalmers (2010)
- Leanne Pomrankey (2009)
- Susan Brown (2008)
- Cheryl Lipp (2007)
- Harry Santos (2006)
- Audie Dixon (2005)
- Lisa Brozik (2004)
- Don Worley (2003)
- Janice Weaver (2002)
- Don Fox (2001)
- Chris Robertson (2000)
- Roger Gillispie (1999)
- Charlie Smith (1998)
- Mike Blankenship (1997)
- Roger Gillispie (1996)
- Keith Sannes (1995)
- Harold Monette (1994)
- Art House (1993)
- Doll Linton (1992)
- Terry Baxter (1991)
- Leigh Deaver (1990)
- Jerry Hunter (1989)
- Bob Snyder (1988)
- Maxine Graves (1987)
- Jerry Davis (1986)
- Dean McIntosh (1985)

It's Again Time To

'VOTE'

For The
Kettle Falls
'Grouch'

**Each vote costs you 25 cents,
You can vote as many times as you want
for your favorite candidate.**



Jessica Blankenship

I was born in Colville Washington and now living in Boyds. I attended school at Orient and then transferred to Kettle Falls School district and graduated. I have lived in the Kettle Falls area all my life. I am a co owner of Ms. B's Haven, I may have made a cup of coffee, latte, mocha or smoothie for you and usually with a smile. I have four sisters and a brother all agree I am grouchy. They say that I am even grouchy when I smile. I just come by it naturally, anyone who knows my

father would attest to that. He was the Kettle Falls Grouch some years back (in 1997). I guess it really does run in the family.

Seriously though, Kettle Falls is a great place to live the people are great sports and many are dear friends. If you want a Grouch that smiles and knows how to enjoy life then cast those votes for me.

Debbie Anderson

A Vote
4
Debbie Anderson
4
Town Grouch
Is A Vote
4
Kettle Falls



The Kettle Falls Focus takes this opportunity to Thank Britta Chalmers for her efforts as the 2010 Grouch

Communication: A Visit With Kettle Falls Middle School Classes

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poetry, song lyrics and more. Yes, yes, and yes.

Many suggestions were made on surveys we handed out to the students. Among them: cross words or word searches; reviews on video games, new movies at the Alpine Theater, local book publications and new music; comics and/or jokes; reinstate the student of the month; focus on students who volunteer in town; cover student activities OTHER than sports; Math is Cool and Science Bowl (they are doing SUPERB by the way, heading to Washington DC); just more stories on Kettle Falls; students doing interviews of local businesses (!); jobs needed and available; things for sale. One offered his services as a paper-boy; he is looking for a job. I wish we had one for him. Finally, one student thought we should include original pictures from Jennifer Largent-Farnam, thought she could use the free advertising! We like that idea, too.

Now, back to the possible compromise on the sports coverage; one student suggested that we include a schedule of games and activities at the beginning of the school season. I intend to follow up on that with the school district and see if we can't

provide that, it just might work. Also, we might be able to do a follow up at the end of the year. We could include each sport's win-loss record, announce the valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class and list those who received scholarships. These are all good suggestions and things we might be able to accomplish.

The one thing that we have always lacked is a flow of information. Neither Peggy nor I have children in this school district. What we need is student volunteers or adult staffers to feed the information to us far in advance. We send our paper off to the printers shortly after the 20th of each month for delivery on the 1st of the following month. There have been a number of news items we would have loved to include, only to have found out too late to print.

We could use all the help we can get; anyone is welcome to become our liaison. Students who wish to do so need to have their parents' permission first, but we are open to all contributors. Maybe our help is closer than we think; one of the students asked us if we were going to retire from this anytime soon.

Clean the Town Day? Interested?

by Susan Urhausen

When the Horizon's group first became active in town, one of the initial activities chosen was a day to clean the public areas of town. For two or three years, volunteers from the Horizon Board along with friends and family cleaned Kettle Falls. The roadsides from the Kettle Falls signs on both sides of town and Meyers Street from the highway to the Kettle Falls Middle School were relieved of litter and debris.

Several people have brought this activity to my attention in the last year. Horizon's no longer sponsors the clean-up because during the last one, Horizon members were the only ones participating. Because it has been missed, I thought I would toss the idea out to the Focus readers and greater Kettle Falls Community. Are you interested in starting this back up?

I thought it might work with any number of civic groups, or maybe all of us together. My original idea was Earth Day as a great day to schedule an annual clean up, but that has come and gone. (This article was planned for the April issue, but we had to cut some articles due to space issues.) By mid-April, most snow has melted and left an unsightly array of trash in its stead. A clean up in May sounds better this year just due to our uncooperative weather all through April. If some non-profits are involved, this clean-up might be eligible for both high school and court issued community service. If anyone is interested, or has any great ideas, please contact me.

To organize, volunteer or sign-up to help in a town clean-up, call me at the Kettle Falls Food Bank, Monday through Thursday from 9-3, 738-2326.

Dispose of that old Metal

Metal items can be brought to a scrap yard just west of Kettle Falls on Highway 395 next to Lakeway Tire. Old appliances, barb wire and "basically anything that is metal" will be accepted. If no one is there items can be left in the area marked "tin". Iron or heavy scrap metal is also purchased here. Call Rick Leake for more information at 509-675-4524.

We Need Your Help!

David and Dani Bull of Blue Moose Design Services have relocated their business to Arizona. David has been the talent behind the amazing layouts and graphics that we have had the fortune to showcase. David has continued to do the graphics and layout since leaving the region two months ago and is willing to continue until we can find another volunteer who is familiar with the InDesign software that he uses. But as you can imagine it means many emails and phone calls to maintain and meet schedules.

Anyone who has InDesign software and would like to devote volunteer time to do the layout for the Kettle Falls Focus, please contact us soon. We can be contacted at kffocus@kettlefallsfocus.com. If there is another software program out there that is comparable that we are not aware of, we would like to talk to you about that too. Please help us out.