

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 2009 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](http://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

- 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)



## BILL WRIGHT MEMORIAL/ BENEFIT CONCERT

**May 29th  
Noon - 9:00pm  
at the Colville Park**

Auctions - Contact Liz ... 684-1324 or  
Kelly 675-6554  
Music (play or Info) - Lindsay Scott  
503-332-3249

T-shirts, Artwork, Bills CDs  
available  
**Mark your calendars.**

## Mother's Day Through The Ages

Compiled by Dani Bull

Mother's Day is on May 9th this year and the tradition of this celebration is centuries old. It possibly began with the Greeks who held festivals to honor Rhea, the mother of the gods. Early Christians held a Mother's festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honor of Mary, the mother of Christ. With time the tradition was changed and included all Mothers and was aptly named the Mothering Sunday.

Early Americans (English settlers) allowed the tradition to fade presumably due to lack of time and harsh lives. But Julia Ward Howe organized a day for Mothers dedicated to peace in 1872. This is the landmark of the current American Mother's Day observance.

Later still, in 1907 Anna M. Jarvis started the movement to organize a National Mother's Day. The Philadelphia school teacher wanted to honor her mother, so she enlisted the assistance of hundreds of prominent businessmen and legislators, pushing for a special day set aside to honor all Mothers.

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as the national holiday in honor of mothers in 1914 in recognition of Anna's hard work. Handing out her mother's favorite flowers, Anna's Mother's Day observance began during church services.

Mother's Day became more and more popular and evolved to gift-giving and to today's commercialization. As a side note, Anna became infuriated with the evolution and believed the sentiment was being sacrificed at the expense of greed and profit.

But then, as now, Mother's Day has continued to be observed and is currently reported to be the most popular day of the year. This special day gives children of all ages the chance to express their gratitude, affection and love for their Mothers.

So, Happy Mother's Day to every Mother, Mom, Mommy, Mama, Maw and Mum.



It's Again Time To

**'VOTE'**  
For The  
Kettle Falls  
'Grouch'

See Page 2 for who is  
running this year.

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

## Old Dominion Mine History Tells of How It Saved Colville

Newest Patrick J. Graham History

Old Dominion Mine lies only eight miles east of Colville on the southeast face of Old Dominion Mountain. It was there in 1885 that three prospectors discovered one of the richest silver/lead ore mines in Washington.

In his fourth book of his "Colville Collections", just published, Patrick J. Graham, historian/author, tells of the significance of the find and how it saved Colville.

The history comes from extensive research, including the presents of famed gunfighter Wyatt Earp, who with others tried to jump the Old Dominion mining claim soon after its discovery.

Through the years the mine had its good years and bad years. The new history traces those years and includes prominent national and local people including Clarence King, first director of the United States Geological survey; Judge W. Lon Johnson,

who for 36 years was the mine's attorney; Richard Prouty, whose homestead played an important part in the mine's history; W.H. Linney, probably the mine's most successful manager and Earl B. Gibbs, the last successful owner of the mine.

Graham's book has an element of mystery.

Who owns the mining claim and who owns the land of the Old Dominion today? Readers will be surprised at the answer.

Included in Colville Collections Book Four is the story of "Jimmie Durkin...A man of his word."

Durkin arrived in Colville in 1886, when the Old Dominion Mine was in full production. He built a saloon in Colville, though by that time the town had eleven, and became the most successful of them all.

In 1897, when the Old Dominion hit one of its many slumps, Durkin moved to

Spokane and in the following years became one of its most prominent saloon operators.

One of his many famous sayings, "Don't buy booze if your kids don't have shoes", was in the entranceway-flooring tile of his saloon.

He used the "Jimmie Durkin...A man of his word", given him by a Baptist minister, throughout his Spokane life. He even had it inscribed on his tombstone. How he came to receive this title is a story in itself.

As per all Graham's histories this book has many historical pictures, maps, letters and publications.

One rare set of pictures shows the Colville Smelter located at the east end of First Avenue in Colville.

This newest book is for sale at Coffee & Books, Barman's, Happy's Hallmark, Stevens County Historical Society Museum and through [www.newgs.org](http://www.newgs.org).