

Grandview Inn Motel And Rv Park

by Peggy Mandin

One of three lodging choices in Kettle Falls, the Grandview Inn Motel is unique in that it offers both motel rooms and an RV park. Named after the property's view of the Columbia River and just a few miles from Lake Roosevelt it is owned by Linda and Gerald Sheppard. The original motel was built in the 1950's and has evolved to its present size of 12 rooms; two suites offer connecting rooms for larger parties. The RV Park was added in 1990 and has 23 spaces. Gerald reported that large groups or families often like the "combination" option, with the older members preferring a motel room and the younger ones an RV or tent space.

Linda and Gerald got into the motel business a number of years ago viewing it as a "new adventure". Having traveled and stayed in motel rooms themselves they felt they had some idea of the kind of accommodations people would seek out and enjoy. To them this meant the accommodations should be affordable, clean, comfortable and offering certain amenities. According to Gerald "satisfying customers is our first priority". The business caters to travelers and locals, fishermen and hunters, and the commercial workers who are often stationed in the area to complete some kind of work project. Work crews often spend the work week at the motel or RV Park, returning home on weekends. The Sheppards strive to make it "home away from home" for those workers.

In the motel rooms guests will find refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers, TVs and telephones. Four of the rooms feature remodeled kitchenettes with two burner stove tops, pots, pans and utensils, and larger refrigerators and microwaves than the rooms without kitchenettes; these rooms still include coffee makers and TVs. Attractive wood paneling has been added in most rooms, giving them a cozy, cabin-like feeling. Wireless computer access is available to most areas of the property.. Pets are allowed; a fee of \$3.00 per pet per night is charged. All rooms are designated non-smoking, but smoking is allowed outside on the porch.

The RV Park offers full-hookups (water, sewer and electricity) and cable TV. It has the feel of being nestled in the woods, with tall shade trees, peaceful surroundings, and a great view. It has restrooms, showers, and a dump station. Some tent spots are available. A grassy "public" area features picnic tables, a barbeque, and a fire pit with wood for guests. Two guest washing machines and dryers will be available soon.

In the spring, the business will begin selling propane, ice, and other items; fishing and hunting licenses will not be available on the premises. The office, which is open from 8a.m.-10p.m., features a large literature rack which provides information on all the activities and attractions in the area. The Grandview Inn honors Good Sam and Woodall's Club discounts as well as AAA and AARP memberships. They accept cash, personal checks, VISA, MasterCard and Discover credit cards for payment.

The Grandview Inn Motel and RV Park is located at 978 Highway 395 N., Kettle Falls, WA 99141. Reservations can be made by calling 509-738-6733 or toll free 1-888-488-6733. The website, grandviewinnandrmpark.com, is currently under construction and visitors are encouraged to check back later. Linda and Gerald will be retiring in March and the new owners will be Jeff and Gayle Straight from Arizona.



Did You Know Visitors Brought In \$53 Million To Stevens County In 2008?

With Horizons and Washington State University Extension hosting a regional tourism workshop at the Chewelah Civic Center on March 5th from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, and the mild winter coming to an end, it seemed timely for the Kettle Falls Focus to do the regular local business articles on our local lodging businesses.

For more information on the workshop see the article at the bottom of page 3.



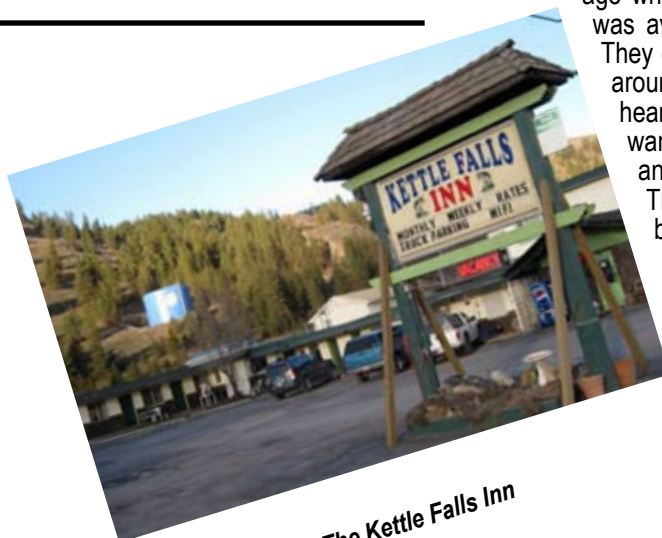
The Grandview Inn Motel and RV Park



The Grandview Inn Motel and RV Park



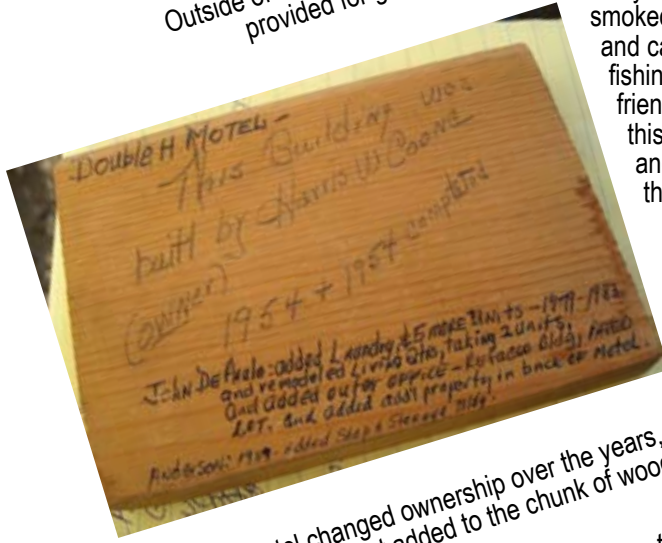
The Grandview RV Park was added in 1990 and has 23 spaces.



The Kettle Falls Inn



Outside of the rooms, small tables and chairs are provided for guests to get fresh air.



As the motel changed ownership over the years, names and dates got added to the chunk of wood.

Kettle Falls Inn

by Susan Urhausen

The Kettle Falls Inn is centrally located in Kettle Falls, the third business from the traffic light to the east, on the north side of Highway 395. The location has been a key element to the success of this motel for over 50 years. Built in 1954, this motel has seen changes in ownership, management and even its name in the years since.

Management

Currently, the Kettle Falls Inn is managed by Debbie and Stuart Robinson. It is a position they have held for ten years now. As a matter of fact, March 19th at 10 PM marks their anniversary moving into their 11th year on the job. It was a move that became more than the job. They loved the area so much that they have purchased a home in the area that they will retire to after their time with the Kettle Falls Inn is done. The Robinsons feel that this move was the best thing that happened to them.

The Robinsons were living in the Airway Heights area, west of Spokane, managing a 37-unit mobile home park thirteen years ago when they decided to see what was available outside of that area. They drew up a resume and sent it around. In just a short time, they heard from Harry Speropolos. He wanted them to move to Ritzville and manage a motel there. The Robinsons checked it out, but decided they really didn't want to move to Ritzville. Remaining in their job, another three years passed before they thought about sending out their resumes again. Once again, Harry Speropolos contacted them to talk to them about managing the Kettle Falls Inn. They met with him for an interview on Friday, Saturday night they were at the Inn, and by Monday at noon Speropolos left, leaving them in charge.

Technically Debbie Robinson is the manager, her husband, who is on disability, is there for support and helps when needed. His background is in commercial fishing, but he has been out of that field for awhile now. He does find ample time to fish in nearby Lake Roosevelt when the urge hits, and I gathered that might be often. While conducting the interview with Debbie, we were "interrupted"

by Stuart giving me a pint of smoked salmon he caught, smoked and canned, from one of his annual fishing trips. That's the kind of friendly demeanor you feel from this couple. Sit and talk to them and you feel that you've known them for years.

It is that kind of warmth and courtesy that brings guests back for repeat visits to the Kettle Falls Inn. Not too long ago, a couple came to stay at the motel. The woman had never stayed in a motel before, but was apparently quite taken with the Robinsons. She found out when

their anniversary was and on a return visit, she bestowed them with a painting she had made, of their anniversary date carved in a heart on a tree with a beautiful background. Debbie has made it

a point to get to know visitors as they pass through, knowing that courtesy and kindness are two things that make an impact. That is especially true when she hosts a motel full of tournament fisherman.

The Governor's Cup and the Two Rivers Walleye Tournaments come to Kettle Falls in June and July respectively. It's easy to tell how many of these tournament fishermen stay at the Kettle Falls Inn just by seeing all the boats filling the parking lot. The Kettle Falls Inn houses 24 teams at each tournament, one team to a room. This year, a third tourney was held, taking place shortly after the time of this interview, the Freeze-out Tournament. From what I understand, this is a low-key tourney involving most of the same fisherman from the other tournaments. It travels from location to location each year and this year they decided on Lake Roosevelt.

continued on page 7