



Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future

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### **Historical Society Asks Idahoans “What Makes Our State Unique?”**

Boise, ID – In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln created Idaho Territory, an area originally larger than the state of Texas. As Idaho approaches its 150th birthday, the Idaho State Historical Society is asking the question, “What are the things that distinguish our state?”

The responses will be used to create a special sesquicentennial exhibit entitled “Essential Idaho: 150 Things that Make the Gem State Unique.” The exhibit will open on March 4, 2013, the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s signing the bill that created a place named “Idaho” on the U.S. map.

Those wishing to nominate someone or something for “Essential Idaho” can visit the Historical Society’s website at [www.history.idaho.gov](http://www.history.idaho.gov) to either fill out or download a nomination form. Or, call 334-2120, x 0 and a form will be mailed to you. The deadline for entries is January 31, 2012.

“As Idaho prepares to commemorate its first 150 years, we seek to celebrate its diverse landscape, remarkable people, and fascinating history with this exhibit that defines what Idaho means from those who know it best,” said Janet Gallimore, the Society’s executive director.

Idaho is a land of striking geographic contrasts, from the once arid Snake River plain to the rugged Sawtooth Mountains and the dense forests of the north. The Salmon is the nation’s longest free-flowing river contained entirely within a single state. Hells Canyon is the deepest gorge in North America, with a greater depth than the Grand Canyon.

Little-known Idaho facts include that during the 1860s gold rush Idaho City was the largest city in the Pacific Northwest and that the town of Arco was the first community in the world to be electrified by atomic power.

Visitors may know that Idaho supplies the nation with more potatoes than any

other state, but may not realize that nearly half of the commercial trout in the U.S. come from our state.

Interesting Idaho people include Shoshone Indian Sacajawea, who interpreted for explorers Lewis and Clark, Rigby resident and inventor of television Philo T. Farnsworth, and actress Lana Turner, who hailed from Wallace.

Idaho at 150 is a grassroots effort among state agencies, communities, and individuals across the state to educate Idahoans about their heritage and commemorate the 150 milestone. "Essential Idaho" will open on March 4, 2013, and run through December 31, 2013.

The Idaho State Historical Society invites all Idahoans to help shape this once-in-a-lifetime exhibit by submitting their nominations.

For more information, contact Anne Schorzman at 208-334-2120, x 12.

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The Idaho State Historical Society is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources comprised of the Idaho State Historical Museum, State Archives, State Historic Preservation Office, and Historic Sites Program. We seek to inspire, enrich and engage all Idahoans by leading the state in preserving, sharing, and using history and cultural resources relevant to today to inform and influence the future. Learn more about ISHS at [www.history.idaho.gov](http://www.history.idaho.gov).