

News Release

Ketchum's Ore Wagon Museum Gets New Interpretive Signs *Tracing Focus from Mining to Sheep to Tourism*

Note to editors: One photo is attached. Caption: The first of the large display panels, this one speaks of the early years of the Wood River Valley, home to bands of migratory Indians, to the trappers and miners who came in the early 1800s to the arrival of the railroad in 1883.

KETCHUM, Idaho — New interpretive panels have been installed at Ketchum's Ore Wagon Museum, which contain the six original Lewis Fast Freight three-ton ore wagons used in the 1880s to haul ore from back country galena mines to the former Philadelphia Smelter on Warm Springs Road.

The panels, each 3.75-feet by 4-feet, show historical photographs of migratory native tribes, local stores, ore wagons and mule teams on the trail, miners at work, the smelter, sheep at the railhead and early skiers. Others contain mine diagrams, maps and photos of vanished towns, all tracing Ketchum's evolution from an economy based on mining to sheep to tourism.

The enhanced display was prepared with the assistance of former state Rep. Wendy Jaquet; Norma Douglas, one of the researchers and the writer for the original exhibit created in 1986; and Sandra Hofferber, librarian of the regional history department of The Community Library.

Evelyn Backman Phillips of Quigley Map Studio designed the display panels, and Windy City, a Wood River Valley sign company, printed and mounted the panels. The display was funded by grants from the city of Ketchum and the Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency.

The Ore Wagon Museum is located at Fifth Street and East Avenue across from Ketchum City Hall. The interpretive display can be seen under the covered porch on the south side of the building. Visitors wanting to enter the building should check at City Hall across the street. Admission is free.

The ore wagons, a gift from the Lewis family, are the grand finale of Ketchum's Wagon Days parade, held every Labor Day weekend. The wagons return to Ketchum's Main Street, pulled by a mule string driven by a mule skinner.

The official dedication of the panels will be Sunday, Aug. 31, during Wagon Days weekend.



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About the City of Ketchum

The City of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, fishing, hiking, mountain biking,

restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The City of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the City of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

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