



June 2018

# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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## 2D Barcode



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## Quote

"Idaho Public TV fills our TV time more each day. Mysteries, cook, travel, history, science, and fun!! What more could we ask for." –Bill and Mariette

## Educate and Celebrate!



### An IdahoPTV event for teachers featuring special guest, PBS Digital Innovator, Paige Somoza

Educators, please join us June 27, 2018, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Idaho Public Television in Boise as we celebrate you! Meet Idaho's Digital Innovator All-Star Paige Somoza, chosen as one of only 30 teachers nationwide, learn about and explore all of the quality resources we have available for you, and get a tour of the station. Lunch will be served, and we will give away door prizes as well! The event is free, but please register at: [http://idahoptv.org/support\\_new/membership/educateAndCelebrate.cfm](http://idahoptv.org/support_new/membership/educateAndCelebrate.cfm). If you have questions, please contact us at 1-800-543-6868.

## Thank You for Supporting Idaho Gives



May 3 was #IdahoGives, a 24-hour day of online giving for Idaho nonprofit organizations throughout the state. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual event was the most successful yet for Idaho nonprofit organizations, raising an astounding \$1,555,718.75 for 570 different charities.

This year, 105 donors gave \$7,575 to the Friends of Idaho Public Television (compared to 2017 when 99 donors contributed \$6,360). In the "large organization category" Top 100 list, IdahoPTV ranked 30th for total donations and 34th for number of unique donors.

Donations designated for IdahoPTV on IDAHO GIVES day will be used to re-stock materials for traveling literacy and STEM events led by our education outreach staff. Each activity uses STEM-based lesson plans, as well as books and STEM materials geared for 3 to 12-year olds. Children will experience hands on activities and take home a book and science materials from our fun community visits around the state. See details and a fun video at <https://www.idahogives.org/organizations/friends-of-idaho-public-television>.

Quote from an online donor:

"This donation is a gift for Mother's Day, in my mom's name, from Salmon, Idaho. IPTV is her favorite nonprofit! She calls her kids frequently to say, 'Turn your channel to IPTV and watch ...'"



## WorldFest-Houston International Film and Video Festival Awards

Congratulations to the following *Outdoor Idaho* programs for receiving awards at WorldFest!

Platinum - "Eclipse" Interstitial

Platinum - "Wild Horses," Nature/Wildlife

Platinum - "Where the Road Ends," Travel/Tourism

Platinum - "Beyond the White Clouds," Information/Cultural/Historical

Gold - "Creative License," Lifestyle Program

### In the Community

### Education Outreach

#### Upcoming Events:

**June 1** – Meridian Public Library Summer Reading event at Settlers Park in Meridian from 5 to 9 p.m.

**June 12** – Book and a Bite STEM/Literacy event at Sacajawea Elementary School in Caldwell from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**June 12** – Emmett Public Library Summer Reading event with STEM activities at 2 p.m.

**June 13** – Book and a Bite event at Emmett School District Office in Emmett from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**June 14** – Book and a Bite event at Reed Elementary School in Kuna from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**June 15** – American Falls Library Summer Reading Program launch at 1:00 p.m.

**June 19** – Book and a Bite event at Sacajawea Elementary School in Caldwell from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Oceans and Waves"

**June 20** – Book and a Bite event at Emmett School District Office in Emmett from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Oceans and Waves"

**June 21** – Book and a Bite event at Reed Elementary School in Kuna from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Oceans and Waves"

**June 26** – Book and a Bite event at Sacajawea Elementary School in Caldwell from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Let's Grow!"

**June 27** – Book and a Bite event at Emmett School District Office in Emmett from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Let's Grow!"

**June 28** – Book and a Bite event at Reed Elementary School in Kuna from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Let's Grow!"



## Our IdahoPTV Productions



### Behind the Stories "Restoring Rivers"

By Kris Millgate



The first time I worked with Louis Wasniewski, Caribou-Targhee National Forest forest hydrologist, was mid-current in Jackknife Creek in 2012. The last time I worked with Louis was mid-current again, but in Curlew National Grassland five years later. Between those two events, a new *Outdoor Idaho* show bubbled to life right along with the rivers Louis spends his days restoring.

Jackknife was my first exposure to river restoration in action, and I shot a pile of footage and photos. I knew I was documenting a monumental shift in societal priorities and I was thrilled. Natural resources were no longer going to be just about what we get out of them. They were starting to hold value for being left as is, or in some cases put back together. I could see it coming in the construction zone at Jackknife.

His intensity for what he does runs as obsessively high as my motivation to make movies. I saw a new show for *Outdoor Idaho* on my first day with Louis, but it took a few more years of refining my pitch before Idaho Public Television agreed with me.



Catching and releasing native Yellowstone cutthroat trout on a stretch of Jackknife Creek that used to be void of spawners.

By the time production of “Restoring Rivers” started in 2017, Jackknife was done. It’s now a healthy, restored waterway. I know this because I fish it with my little boys and find native Yellowstone cutthroat trout in upper stretches that fish couldn’t access for decades before the restoration of 2012.

Louis has moved on to Curlew National Grassland near the Idaho-Utah border. This time he’s restoring waterways for a declining population of sage grouse instead of native fish. He’s making sure farm and ranch gets what it needs too in this private-public initiative. Matt Lucia of Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust spent many hours with Louis and me as we camped in the Curlew with *Outdoor Idaho* videographer Jay Krajic. We documented resource change from the water up. Fortunately, I’m just short enough to comfortably sleep in my truck, which doubles as my office when I’m on the road. I slept in it a lot while chasing the Curlew’s story of collaboration.

There’s collaboration in Pocatello too. City folk want the Portneuf River for more than just the cement chute it’s trapped in as flood control. In the panhandle, sturgeon are more than enough inspiration for improving the Kootenai. And in the Gem State’s heart, central wilderness between Challis and Stanley, the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River is turning right side up after a gold dredge turned it inside out 7 decades ago. Cassi Wood of Trout Unlimited is leading that effort. It’s a multi-year, multi-agency, multi-million dollar project that should help Chinook salmon swimming 850 miles for the ocean to Idaho to spawn.

From salmon to sage grouse and from cattle to cutthroats, this is the age of the comeback. Our natural resources need us to let them recover, and in some cases help them recover. We’ve taken for centuries. Now let’s put back. River restoration is a fine place to start. I can’t wait to see what’s around the next bend. Neither can Louis.

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## IdahoPTV In the News

### All About Horses

#### Two ISU Researchers Interviewed for Idaho Public Television Program ‘Taking the Reins’

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

RELEASED BY: Idaho State University

POCATELLO – Two Idaho State University researchers, Phil Homan and Laura Woodworth-Ney, were interviewed for the Idaho Public Television program “Taking the Reins” that will air on Idaho Experience at 8:30 p.m. May 24.

About half of the 30-minute program will tell the story of Kittie Wilkins, known as the “Horse Queen of Idaho,” who raised and sold horses in southern Idaho in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Woodworth-Ney, ISU executive vice president, has researched the political and social roles of women in Western settlement communities and Philip Homan, ISU associate professor and instruction librarian, has completed research on Wilkins.

"It is just fabulous," Homan said. "This is really a dream come true for a scholar, getting academic and popular recognition about research that is appealing to a wide array of audiences. Wilkins is not only of regional, statewide and of national historical importance but also has international significance."

His extensive research has included researching a book-length scholarly biography about her and publishing numerous popular and scholarly articles on Wilkins, including papers with titles such as "'Everything Growing into Money': Kittie Wilkins, the Horse Queen of Idaho, and Range Horse Ranching in the Nineteenth-Century American West" and "Miss Wilkin's Big Sale: Kittie Wilkins, the Horse Queen of Idaho, and Western American Horses for the Second Anglo-Boer War in South Africa, 1899-1902."

He has also presented information about her at scholarly conferences and at informal venues throughout the region, Idaho and United States, even internationally.

"I have been working on this for at least 10 years and it has been challenging to do because of the lack of archival resources about Wilkins and those resources are spread across the country and even in South Africa," Homan said. "She sold about 7 percent of all the horses from the United States to South Africa 1899 to 1902 during the Boer War."

The first Idaho Experience program of the season, titled "Titans," that aired in March featured prominent Idaho male entrepreneurs such as Harry Magnuson, Joe Albertson and JR Simplot. Homan said it is fitting that the second program in the series features strong, successful women entrepreneurs like Wilkins and her contemporary, May Arkwright Hutton, of the Wallace area who became one of the richest women in Idaho who supported suffrage activities.

Homan is a fifth-generation Idahoan and his family had connections to Wilkins. His great-grandparents knew Wilkins personally and Homan first learned about her through family stories. As a child he remembers seeing a portrait of her hanging in a museum in Silver City. These experiences inspired Homan to pursue research about her.

Woodworth-Ney said she was interviewed by Idaho Public Television for an upcoming episode about "Women in the West," and was interviewed for the Kittie Wilkins episode to provide context.

"This series, Idaho Experience, offers important critical re-analysis of topics that have previously been neglected or distorted by myth," said Woodworth-Ney, a fourth-generation Idahoan.

Wilkins, whose formal name is Katherine Caroline Wilkins, was born in the Oregon Territory in 1857, "the daughter of fortune-seeking pioneers," according to Idaho Public Television promotional materials, which also states, "On one of the Wilkins' departures, neighbors gave the toddler two 20-dollar gold coins. Years later, Katherine would regale to reporters how she parlayed that 40 dollars into her fortune. She would become one of the most successful horse sellers in the United States, the undisputed boss of Idaho's famed Diamond Ranch. The world would come to know her as the Horse Queen of Idaho. Friends and family simply called her Kittie."

For more information about the upcoming television program, visit, <https://idahoptvblog.wordpress.com/2018/04/23/taking-the-reins-features-two-women-who-tamed-idaho/>.

# Idaho Statesman

## A film about Boise's "Chinese tunnels" was tantalizing but had no sound. Until now.

BY MARIA L. LA GANGA

mlaganga@idahostatesman.com

May 18, 2018

The mysterious film purporting to prove that Boise's so-called Chinese tunnels actually existed is a little less cryptic this week.

The 15 minutes of black-and-white footage was unearthed last July in a climate-controlled double vault deep within the Idaho State Archives. But the 1960s-era film was too fragile to just throw on an equally vintage projector, and months passed before it was digitized.

When archivists finally viewed the film in late April, they were in for a surprise – and not a good one. The visuals were crystal clear: a reporter in Buddy Holly glasses, the ornate Chinatown home of the Hip Sing Assn., a crawlspace filled with a multitude of pipes.

But there was no sound. Which, for a documentary heavy on voice-overs, was a disaster.

After the Statesman wrote about the discovery and the archives posted the film on YouTube, calls, emails and online comments began to flow. The mystery reporter was identified as Sam Donaldson (no, not that one), according to his son and former colleagues at KBOI. The film broadcast in 1967.

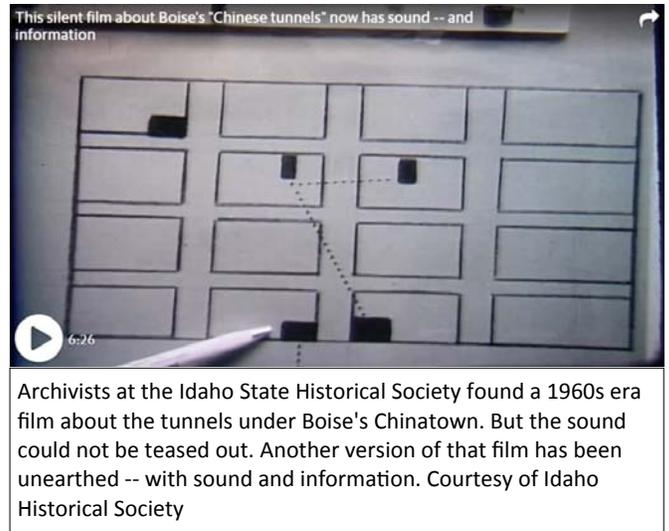
"I was in shock when I saw the Idaho Statesman news story," said Brian Donaldson, who serves as curator for the Tularosa Village (New Mexico) Historical Society. "It's like, oh, my gosh, that's my father. ... He was a very debonair gentleman. He was very well spoken. He did a lot of public speaking. He was very comfortable in front of a camera and people."

Brian Donaldson is 49. The 1967 tunnels documentary was filmed before he was born. His father, who started out in radio and television in Montana, worked for KBOI in Boise and later became head of public relations for Boise Cascade, died of a heart attack in 1993.

Donaldson's interview subjects were identified as Raymond Fong, a Boise resident whose family spanned generations in the city's now defunct Chinatown, and Joe Robinson Sr., whose father served three separate terms as Boise police chief between 1911 and 1933.

Fong was one of nine children born to Harry Fong, "the informal mayor of Boise's Chinatown," said Katheryn Fong, one of Raymond's younger sisters. The family lived on the bottom floor of the Hip Sing Assn. building, which plays such a big part in the recently unearthed documentary.

"It's very difficult to describe the living conditions in that building," said Katheryn Fong, 72, who lives in Sebastopol, California, and retired as vice president of customer service for Pacific Gas & Electric. "We had no running hot water. We did not have a bathroom. We had a toilet off the area we called the kitchen. When we needed to bathe, we'd boil cold water on the stove and pour it into a round, galvanized tub."



The building was heated with coal, which was delivered into the basement via an alley. In addition to the coal room door, the basement had two other doors, Katheryn Fong said. "We were told not to go beyond a couple of those. ... They were doors that led to we-don't-know-where. As little kids we had heard there were tunnels."

Then Jessica Solberg, social media producer at Idaho Public Television reached out to the state archives. The station, she said, had found a six-minute section of the original film that had been digitized.

And it had sound.

Suddenly, there was a chance that Boise's enduring puzzle could be solved once and for all: Were the tunnels that captivated generations of Idahoans an urban myth or actual structures that once snaked beneath the young city in the Rocky Mountain foothills?

IPTV staff had first unearthed the black and white footage 30 years ago, while researching 13, one-hour documentaries for Idaho's centennial. The series was called "Proceeding on Through a Beautiful Country: A Television History of Idaho."

Jeff Tucker was 22 years old at the time and directed the series. He recalls traveling Idaho, "stem to stern, top to bottom, interviewing people, finding stories, looking at history" and working with the state historical society and its archives.

Today, Tucker is the station's director of content services. He's pretty sure, he said, that he dubbed the six-minute segment of Sam Donaldson's documentary. But he doesn't remember it, doesn't remember using it in the centennial effort and figures it just sat for the last three decades in station's own archives.

Until a few months ago, when Solberg was doing research for a new series called Idaho Experience in concert with the Idaho State Historical Society. The July 19 segment, produced by Melissa Davlin, chronicles the life of one Idaho family affected by the Chinese Exclusion Act.

The six minutes taken from Donaldson's longer piece are a choppy compilation of the documentary's high points. Donaldson is often cut off mid sentence. Raymond Fong, who has since died, has been excised completely. No primary sources are named, except for the late Joe Robinson Sr.

David Matte, state archives administrator, was mostly agnostic about the value of the now-not-silent film segment.

"I found the piece a very interesting part of the debate of whether there were or were not Chinese tunnels in Boise at one time," he said in an email Thursday after watching it. "It's not the proof enough for me to be persuaded completely, but I would not rule out the possibility if new evidence was ever gathered and verified."

Arthur Hart, the 97-year-old emeritus director of the Idaho State Historical Society, was unmoved. Before watching the piece, he did not believe that Boise's Chinatown residents dug a network of tunnels beneath the city. After watching it, he stuck to his guns.

"The story is so persuasive, and people want to believe it," said Hart, who has dedicated decades to researching the subject. "I'm not saying it's impossible that we had Chinese tunnels, but I have no evidence that's persuasive. You can put it in the area of legend. That's the word I'd apply to it."

But for all you diehard tunnel believers, the film segment will warm your hearts.

It seems to have been prompted by the pending sale of the Hip Sing Assn. building, which Donaldson called "one of the few remaining authentic Chinese buildings in Boise" and warned "will also go the way of man's progress." The problem? Taxes and expensive upkeep.

At one point, the KBOI reporter says he is standing in the basement of the Boise Chamber of Commerce building. There's a dank-looking stone wall behind him and a metal hand rail that ends just above his head.

"In this coal room was the start of the Chinese tunnels," he intones. "In fact, the start was right here, at this concrete patch. The patch is here today, but the tunnels are gone. Or at least they're gone for the most part."

He shows a grid of unnamed streets with black rectangles that represent the chamber of commerce building, a former Chinese laundry and the Mode Department Store, which he said was located at 8th and Bannock streets.

There are dotted lines that he says represent so-called Chinese tunnels, like the one that ran from the chamber down to the Joss House across the street from the Hip Sing Building. "This was the major tunnel of the tunnel system in Boise. However, there were others. This was not the only one."

The only primary source he cites in this short segment is Joe Robinson Sr. The elderly man with jowls and a bald spot sits in a rocking chair and recalls his youth. His father was Andy Robinson, a three-time Boise police chief who served between 1911 and 1912, in 1915 and again from 1927 to 1933.

Robinson said he was 14 when he went down into the tunnel system with his father and a group of guests. They were invited, he said, by "the head Chinaman of all the Chinese colony."

"We went into the downstairs, and you came first into a large room, an open room, where they had about two platforms or places to sleep or lie on, and that was the place where they were smoking their opium," Robinson said.

"And at that time, there were two of those and there were Chinamen on both of them having their opium smokes with their cats, as you always hear about, but they were there," he continued. "From then on, you could see many, many little doors. And that's where the Chinamen lived individually. They were much smaller than the doors of a room of a home. There were hundreds and hundreds of them."

Donaldson only refers to the man as "Joe," but Robinson's daughter-in-law, Dottie Robinson, emailed to identify him. She wrote about how Robinson would regale them with tales of trips into the tunnels, of the cats and opium smokers he saw down in the darkness.

"Arthur Hart has never believed those tunnels were there...BUT THEY WERE," Dottie Robinson wrote. "Don't mean to bore you, but I get tired of defending the 'tunnels'."

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# Idaho Statesman

## SKI MOUNTAINEERING

### **Super Gully – super wow!**

BY PETER MORRILL

Special to the Idaho Statesman

May 29, 2016

You'll never see Super Gully – located in Idaho's Lost River Range – hawked in any tourist brochures. And you certainly won't find it on the map. But for a few hearty souls who love ski mountaineering, this couloir is pure heaven.



TERRY LEE Special to the Idaho Statesman  
Cody Feuz and Paul Gilbreath ski down Super Gully in the Lost River Range. After a 2,500-foot run, adventurers face another 2,000-foot trek down to the getaway vehicle.

Super Gully is a storied place for crazy folks, and it's definitely not for the faint of heart. Some have described it as a near vertical ski flume: narrow at the top and broadening out towards the bottom. Early spring provides the best conditions for enthusiasts because the winter snows have stabilized and warm sunny days are the rule.

To visit Super Gully, you have to get up really early and be prepared for a hard trek. First, you'll be packing in equipment like backcountry skis and boots, an ice axe, a helmet, crampons and avalanche transceivers.

Then there's the hike. It takes four to six hours up dirt, rock and snow. As the crow flies, it's only about two miles, but you'll be ascending more than 4,500 vertical feet.

But your reward will be stunning views and a 2,500-foot ski run.

But wait, you're not done: there's still a 2,000-vertical-foot descent hike back to the car with all of your gear. Plan to be completely tired out at the end of the day.

Sound like fun? Well for some, it's their idea of weekend nirvana.

So does Super Gully seem like the perfect story for "Outdoor Idaho"? You bet it does!

In fact, Super Gully is the first segment to be produced for the upcoming one-hour documentary on Idaho's highest mountain range.

In late April, "Outdoor Idaho" followed veteran amateur ski mountaineers Cody Feuz of Boise and Paul Gilbreath from Idaho Falls, as they ascended the Super Gully. Cody is an analyst at HP and Paul is an engineer at INL ... which got me thinking: what is it with these technical people?!

The OI crew was led by Director/Videographer Jay Krajic, assisted by volunteers Terry "The Mule" Lee and myself.

Getting television gear like cameras, tripods, and batteries into this tough location takes a team effort. Our group was there to provide "grunt" transportation support for Jay's video camera gear.

In the end, it was a fabulous day and we got some stunning video. But, we did have a few hiccups. Unfortunately, Terry's skis had to be left at the bottom because of weight.

Later in the day, he had to descend Big Gully sans skis. He described the painful journey down the mountain as a “butt and testicle cryogenic treatment.”

And finally, the weather. It was a little too perfect. The temperature warmed the snow into the consistency of mashed potatoes, which made for very tough skiing on the lower half of Super Gully.

After having time to consider the experience, I think Super Gully is a parable of the larger Lost River Range, with its peaks and ridges that soar majestically 7,000 feet above the valley floor. Although not wilderness, this place exhibits the stately grandeur that we treasure most in wild places.

Few people know much about the Lost River Range, with the exception of Idaho's tallest mountain, Mount Borah, which was 10 miles to the north. All of this conspires to make what will be an intriguing subject for “Outdoor Idaho” to explore.

Production will continue through this summer and fall and the show is scheduled to premiere Dec. 1 on Idaho Public Television.



PETER MORRILL Special to the Idaho Statesman  
Feuz and Gilbreath make the long – four to six hours – climb up Super Gully.