



Rathdrum Jail Museum

PO Box 227, Rathdrum, Idaho 83858 208-625-0014

Financial contributions in the form of donation and membership are tax deductible

Member of the Rathdrum Chamber of Commerce

July, 2019 Newsletter

Ruby is the birthstone and represents love, health and wisdom. It was believed wearing a Ruby bestowed good fortune on its owner. The flowers are the gladiolus and poppy. The zodiac signs for July 1 - 22 are Cancer and July 22 - 31 are Leo.

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American Independence. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.



History — Did you know? The Rathdrum Tribune

The small community of Rathdrum, Idaho, was established in 1861. In the 1880s a mining boom began in northern Idaho, and Rathdrum developed as a supply center for the adjacent Coeur d'Alene Mining District, also known as the Silver Valley. The development of Rathdrum was aided by the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883 and the placement of a railhead in the town. Agriculture and lumber were also important industries, primarily in support of mining.

In 1902, two brothers, Joseph R.M. and Charles W. Culp, purchased a local paper, the *Silver Blade* (1895-1902), with Joseph serving as editor. The following year, the Culp brothers changed its name to the *Rathdrum Tribune*. The *Tribune* was published in 1903-63, serving Rathdrum and Kootenai County. It appeared weekly on Friday as a four-page, six-column paper, with occasional six-page issues. In 1911-20, the *Tribune's* circulation hovered around 500.

The *Rathdrum Tribune* faced immediate criticism from a local competitor, the Democratic *Panhandle News*. The *Panhandle's* editor, William A. Logue, attributed the *Silver Blade's* demise to political motivations and predicted the *Tribune's* demise for the same reason. These charges were refuted in an editorial in the *Tribune* that claimed that the *Silver Blade* and *Tribune* were both free from political

influence. The *Tribune's* editor went on to say that, "so far as existence is concerned, the *Tribune* will be on hand to record the death of the *Panhandle News* and, still later, to behold the giants of future forests growing over its grave." Although the *Rathdrum Tribune* claimed political independence, it was considered a Republican newspaper.

The *Tribune* covered national, state, and local news. National and state-wide politics dominated the paper's non-local content. Local news focused primarily on the town of Rathdrum. However, news from the small adjacent communities of Spirit Lake, Harrison, Coeur d'Alene, Athol, Bayview, and Post Falls often appeared in a recurring column, "Items of County Towns." Highly localized or personal news, like marriages, births, sporting events, and local business dealings was covered under "Local Paragraphs." The "Personal Mention" column recorded visitors to the Rathdrum community. During the *Tribune's* early years, members of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union edited a recurring "WCTU Column." Works of fiction were also occasionally featured.

In 1962, Eugene G. Rosin and his wife, Jeanette, purchased the *Rathdrum Tribune*. That same year, the Rosins moved the paper's operations to Post Falls and changed its name to the *Post Falls Tribune* (1963-current). Provided by: [Idaho State Historical Society](#)

Tour at our Historical Rathdrum Jail Museum. We are open Saturdays and Sundays from 12 pm to 4 pm, thru the end of August.

A big THANKS to all the visitors, donors, members, and volunteers. It's with your presence, help, and support that the Rathdrum Westwood Historical Society is able to keep the Museum Jail open and available to the community.

Wishing all a fun and safe 4th of July!

For additional information and questions: Call 208-625-0014
or Visit: www.rathdrumhistory.com or Facebook: Old Kootenai County Jail Museum

MISSION STATEMENT:

To Maintain and Protect Rathdrum's Historic and Cultural Resources for Future Generations

RATHDRUM JAIL MUSEUM

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION

[Rathdrum / Westwood Historical Society, PO Box 227, Rathdrum, Idaho 83858](#)

Individual - \$20.00

Family - \$30.00

Business - \$50.00

Contributor / Donation - \$_____

Note: All donations of \$250 or above (in cash or in kind) will be acknowledged on our Donor Wall of Fame in the Community Room as well as on our website.

NAME _____ Date _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____