



The Interchange

September 2008

1 Two weeks of preparation, a couple hours packing the charge, and stopping all the traffic for as little time as possible. When there's only one road for traffic to use for a hundred miles in either direction, blasting at a place like Galena Summit has to go right the first time, every time.



SET BLAST REPEAT

2 Actually the second blast of the day for Dan Lafferty and his crew, the rock cut near the top of Galena Summit goes as planned — covering the roadway but not shooting rocks all over the mountain. The blasts, the first of many taking place in September on either side of the Idaho 75 mountain pass, will stair-step the former vertical cut away from the roadway and reduce the height of the knob.



The first series of cuts that took place on Sept. 3 removed much of the top but two more cuts will be needed to achieve the final contour, Lafferty said.

3 Fifteen minutes after traffic is stopped, ITD maintenance has one lane open again. Larry Jokinen

and Andy Gunderson work to clear the (mostly) basketball sized-rocks. Two rock faces will be blasted back to allow more shoulder area, snow storage and less drifting issues. Previously, the two narrow points on the mountain created multiple hazards during the winter, but the modifications should create less of a threat, D4 Maintenance Engineer Scot Stacey said.

before the theory is tested — snow is already dusting the tops of the surrounding Boulder and Sawtooth Mountains. But like the middle of winter, even as the summer camping season is still going, keeping the road open is the first duty as soon as the rocks hit the ground. The cycle will continue throughout September as several more blasts take place and clean-up follows for several days after.



1. The charge is set.
2. Idaho 75 is covered with a new load of rocks.
3. Larry Jokinen and Andy Gunderson go to work clearing one lane for traffic to resume.

In this Issue

Summer trips	2
More summer	3
Days work?	4

It won't be too long

Rafting in Grand (Canyon) style

By Bob Johnson

It was July 18 that we bused down to Lee's Ferry and loaded onto the two rafts that would carry our group down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. My wife Nancy, her sister, brother-in-law, two nieces, and I were off on our expedition. There were also 20 others on the rafts with us. Our lead guide said we were definitely not going on a tour, we would not know what hikes we would take where our camp sites would be, or what the white water rapids would be like until we got there. Much depended on the weather and we were in monsoon season.

What a great trip this ended up being. We got great water levels and hit rapids that our guides said they had never seen with so much volume and size of waves. We generally were able to take two hikes each day into native Indian archeological sites and into slot canyons that traditionally ended in a beautiful waterfall.

This was the best vacation I have ever been on even though I had to wash my own dishes, pack my bedding and clothes, and help unload and load the raft at each camp site. The feeling you get inside that canyon is amazing. I really can't describe it but you know you are in a special place.

Lots of big horn desert sheep, lizards, frogs, and rig tail cats were present. The moon flower plants were in bloom and the skies are wider, the stars brighter, and the moon bigger than I have seen.

The water was really big. I was able to stay in the raft through the entire cruise but Nancy did involuntary swimming twice.

Once she went into the river with her sister and brother-in-law. The brother-in-law was actually sucked down by a vortex (with his



Bob Johnson and his wife, Nancy, enjoying a canyon hike during a Grand Canyon rafting trip in July.

life jacket on) and then came up under the raft. He thought he was a goner and we folks on top were pretty excited when he disappeared for about 30 or 40 seconds. If he had drowned it sure would put a damper on the fun. Fortunately all three swimmers were brought in the raft and it became just part of the adventure.

I highly recommend this trip to everyone. Grand Canyon is one of Americans great treasures and each of us should experience it. Do it while you are young. Going up a lot of those hikes was very strenuous and this old fat boy was really huffing and puffing. Deer Creek Canyon, Havasu Creek, and Black Canyon were my favorites.

Nashville: As cool as Muddy Waters

I had to keep reminding myself that I was there for work, but going to Nashville was definitely what I hoped it would be.

Attending the National Transportation Public Affairs Workshop (NTPAW) was a good experience from the beginning. Not only learning a

lot about how other states conduct their public relations and meeting many colleagues, the NTPAW was unique for me since Nashville was a new place to me. And as the lone Idaho representative (and as a first-timer) I got treated well by all the veterans of the business.

I took time outside the conference to take tours of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and the Ryman Auditorium, which was a good start to a traditional Music City experience. That was followed by several country music bars to experience some of those trying to hit the big time, and even a conference trip to the Tennessee Titans stadium (that included a tour of the locker room and down on field level). And, no, I didn't sing even once.

While next year is out, I hope to attend again in two years when Idaho hosts the workshop for the first time in 20 years.



Nathan Jerke on the stage at the Ryman Auditorium.

Congratulations

Judith Aitken won a blue ribbon in three categories in the quilting competition at the Jerome County Fair in July. She won blue ribbons in the Lap Quilt with her White Poinsettia quilt, the machine quilt with a Christmas Melody quilt, and in pieced quilt with her Mr. Butterfly and Roses Stack N' Whack quilt.

The Butterfly and Roses quilt also won a Best of Show award.

Life and Times in District 4



Jet Setting



Clyde Dwight, left, got an up-close experience with the Blue Angels the last week of July at the Magic Valley Air Show in Twin Falls. As part of the Homeland Security Haz-Mat team, Dwight was on hand with his team for the entire event.

The family that floats together ...



The Allen King family was all together for a few days in August and took a trip down the South Fork of the Boise River with guide Randy Norris. Allen was joined by sons Oliver and Jason (front) and wife Diane (rear-left) for the adventure.

Billy Bronco



Design's Justin Volquardsen tested his '89 Bronco with the Hill Billy Rock Krew in Nampa on July 26. He posted a 4th place finish, but won't be climbing very soon for some upgrades.

Did You Know ...

Other than F.R. Gooding, John Thomas of Gooding is the only other person from District 4 to serve in the U.S. Senate (1928-33, 1940-45).

New and Improved in D-4

New to the District

- Amanda Hoffman, Transportation Planner
- Richard Leytham, Mechanic
- Jeff Frieburger, TTA, Rupert

Hunting Season

How big was Bambi this year? Share with everyone a picture of your kill for the year.

Send to Nathan Jerke for the next newsletter at 886-7809 or nathan.jerke@itd.idaho.gov

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 26

Help make **YOUR** newsletter better

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

All in a day's work



Never let anybody tell you these guys are true professionals. Ken Brott and Ken Lively found the best place to be on a hot day while still watching the construction zone.



Above: Interesting barbecue, but Dave Huntington has it handled.



Left: State Truck Rodeo champ Pete McGuire presented with the traveling plaque and his personal plaque by Scot Stacey and Jarrett Porter.



Above: Would you really trust these guys to take you down a river? No? That's OK, Randy Norris and ITD retiree Rick Leir still give a good ride.

Right: Clyde Jr. takes a big plunge ... with Allen King's son, Oliver, sitting above.



Clyde Dwight Jr., left, has a very proud father. Can you believe these guys took a day off work to do this?