

BACON this morning and fantastic raspberry bread, potatoes, and eggs.

BOWLING social next Sunday, 5/18 at 1PM... Tacky Tourists theme. Dress up, eat pizza, drink beer, and roll some strikes!!!! Should be fun!!!

Megan Hansen from the Moss Mansion was our speaker this morning, giving a great presentation on the history of the Moss Mansion:

Preston Boyd (PB) Moss and Mattie were married in 1883 having 5 children throughout their marriage. PB had his hand in many businesses in Billings, first purchasing the 1st National Bank on the corner of 27th and Montana. Later, in 1902, he built the Northern Hotel. The hotel burned to the ground on September 11, 1940 and was rebuilt on July 7, 1941 at a cost of \$1M. Also in 1902, he built the first telephone company in Billings & in 1905 helped build the Sugar Beet Factory. In 1918, the Sugar Beet Factory was sold to the GW Sugar. In 1906, he founded the Billings Evening Journal, which became part of the Billings Gazette in 1914. In 1908, PB helped build the Billings Polytechnic Institute, which later became known as Rocky Mountain College. In 1910, the 1st National Bank closed.

In 1901, construction began on the Moss Mansion a massive 23 room home costing a whopping \$105,000. The mansion took 2 years to build. In 1986, the Moss Mansion was purchased by the Billings Preservation Society, just as a developer was working to purchase it and build a Ramada Inn on the property.

The Moss Mansion sees 7000-8000 visitors per year, coming from all parts of the world. The Moss Mansion is completely self-sustaining, holding many different events throughout the year. If it wasn't for the many volunteers with the Billings Preservation Society, these events would not happen. Some events throughout the year include live action CLUE nights, since the floor plan of the mansion is almost exactly like the CLUE game. The Moss Mansion also has Murder Mystery Dinners during the year, as well as the upcoming Summerfest, this year being held on June 7.

Shawnee again won the raffle... that's 2 weeks in a row!!!

Since I'll be out of town next week, Stephanie Romsa was gracious enough to write the BECON in my absence.

Rocket