

## **Appendix 5      Columbia Falls Mural**

The illustrated history of Columbia Falls, as told by historic murals, were painted in 2003 and 2004 on the exterior of Masonic building on Nucleus Avenue.

The murals represent periods in the Columbia Falls of 100 years ago and from the 1920's they were painted by Clark Heyler (from Kalispell) and Maria Vekkos of Whitefish funded via the Columbia Falls Community Foundation.



The E.H. Snyder Drug Store mural depicts the drug store which was located north of the first bank, near the present Sportsman Bar on Nucleus Avenue.

It also represents brick buildings built by the Berne Brothers' brick yard.

Mike and Billy Berne provided bricks for many early buildings, including the Oddfellows Building on 1st Avenue West and the old Catholic church on 4th Avenue West.

The woman walking away is Mrs. Nellie LaFrambois, a Native American woman who sold the area for the townsite of Columbia Falls. All that is known about her is that she probably belonged to the Kootenai tribe and had several children. She lived on land that is now just south of Glacier Gateway Elementary School on 4th Avenue West.

The man sitting on the bench represents one of the founding fathers of Columbia Falls. Mr. James Talbott lived here after establishing the town in 1891. He died in 1923.

The woman shaking the tablecloth out the upstairs window is Mrs. E.H. Snyder. Her husband owned the drug store. They lived in the apartment upstairs.

The little girl pulling the wagon is Dorothy (Jordan) Brading. Dorothy's father built the first electric run lumber mill located north of Nucleus Avenue. The wagon has A.L. Jordan Lumber Co. written on a side slat.

Dorothy is about to introduce her baby brother to Mr Talbott, who liked to meet each new member of "his" town.

The two men standing are Charlie Howe and Joe Cosley. Howe owned one of the first hotels on Lake McDonald. Cosley was a French-Canadian trapper, early park ranger and artist.

Poker players upstairs include artist Charlie (C.M.) Russell, who would come to town for a game with locals when he stayed at his vacation cabin on Lake McDonald.