



To: Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
Senator Joyce Broadsword
Representative Eric Anderson
Representative Max Black

Date: May 20, 2008

Re: Priest River – Idaho’s Capitol for the Day
President Theodore Roosevelt’s Historic Sugar Maple Tree

On behalf of Seven Planet, the world’s first chain of green general stores, and the community of Priest River, Idaho, thank you for your interest and support of Northern Idaho.

This historic print of President Roosevelt touring Northern Idaho is from, and provided courtesy of, the Ross Hall Collection of fine photography. The image was captured by the visionary photographer Dick Himes in 1911 as President Roosevelt rolled through Sandpoint as part of the legendary Bull Moose campaign. The original 8” x 10” glass plate has been carefully protected and maintained for historical purposes by Dann Hall, a Northern Idaho community leader as well as the curator of the Ross Hall Collection.

The frame itself is also historically significant. The ribboned sides of the frame are from the Sugar Maple tree that President Roosevelt planted at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise – the state’s other “capitol.” After the tree blew over in a severe windstorm, salvageable portions were distributed to woodworkers around the state so that they could create works of art for the renovated Idaho State Capitol.

A special thanks to Representatives Max Black and Eric Anderson for their efforts in preserving the legacy of Idaho’s President Theodore Roosevelt Sugar Maple tree. Also, a special thanks to Senator Joyce Broadsword for hand-delivering a portion of the salvaged wood to northern Idaho so that this frame could be made.

The top and bottom of the frame were salvaged from scrapes of hardwood from the Seven Planet store in Priest River, a store that is proud and honored to assist in Idaho’s historic preservation efforts.

Governor, thank you again for your efforts in making Idaho, and Priest River, all that America was meant to be. We would be honored if you would provide this gift of appreciation to our sister State Capitol in Boise for safe-keeping for generations to come.

Sincerely,
The City of Priest of River,
Jim Martin, Mayor