

Dear Ivan,

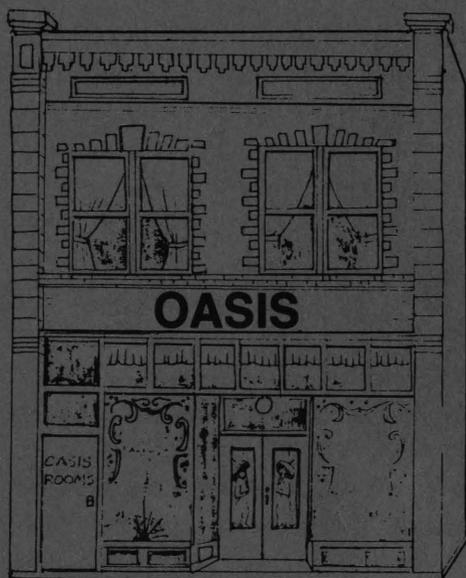
I'm delaying the start of writing my book talk by all sorts of details.

But I truly want to thank you for your note explaining how ^{you} researched prostitution. I'm glad it did not entail personal experience.

Thank You

I always thought you and Carol were among the nicest people I ever ~~met~~ met and you reinforced that belief taking time to write. Of course my status at the book club will be raised considerably since I can include a note from the author. Thank ^{you} ~~you~~ you. Thank you. Thank you - Joy

BORDELLO MUSEUM



Oasis Rooms
The Way they Were Left
605 CEDAR STREET
Wallace, Idaho

Tel (208) 753-0801
(208) 752-3721

MUSEUM
OPEN DAILY

OASIS
ROOMS



Wallace, Idaho

The Oasis Rooms began its existence in 1895 as the Bi Metallic building which was used as a hotel and saloon. It was reported, at that time, that Wallace was largely a swampy area with large cedar trees, a fact that is attested to by the cedar stumps visible in a crawl space under the building's northern end. The mosaic-sized floor tiles were imported from China and were individually laid in a simple pattern. Of particular interest is the fact that the Bi Metallic (Oasis) survived the 1910 fire.

It is uncertain when the Bi Metallic Saloon/Hotel became the Oasis Rooms. Perhaps the change came in a lengthy metamorphosis when different conditions made one business more profitable than another. Certainly, the Oasis Rooms was not a unique establishment in its time, being one of five such brothels along the main street, each with a neon sign in front advertising its presence as the Oasis Rooms, Lux Rooms, Jade Rooms, Arment Rooms and U & I Rooms, etc. It is interesting to wonder how many unwary travelers, looking for places to rest their weary heads, were surprised by the misleading "Rooms" parts of the signs.

A local entrepreneur purchased the building early in 1993. By October 1993 the doors

were again open to the public as a memento of Wallace's colorful and notorious past. The final occupants of the Oasis Rooms apparently left in January of 1988, at least that is the last recorded date in the "hotel" registry that was found. And they seem to have departed in somewhat of a hurry because clothing, makeup, perfume, etc. were all left behind. The rooms are just as they were -- patiently awaiting the return of their former friends.

Mining, of course, has been the life blood of Wallace's existence up until the present trying time in that industry. To mark that important aspect in the history of the Oasis Rooms bordello, the services of an Idaho artist, Robert Thomas, were enlisted to paint the murals on the walls of the former saloon area of the building. The murals bring to life earlier mining scenes of this area. Mr. Thomas is widely recognized for his western landscapes and Idaho Wildlife art and his work is included in many private and corporate collections.

Although the guided tour through the second floor Brothel is the main attraction, the Oasis Museum has several other displays of interest including a still and an old wine press in the basement.

Oasis Bordello Museum



605 Cedar Street
Historic Wallace, Idaho 83873
(208) 753-0801
(208) 752-3721

**Menu
remaining at
time of closure,
January, 1988**

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
Straight, no frills	\$15.00	8
Straight, regular	\$20.00	13
Half & Half, no frills	\$20.00	11
Half & Half, deluxe	\$25.00	15
Straight, French, no frills	\$25.00	10
Straight, French	\$30.00	15
“69”	\$30.00	15
Half Hour	\$35.00	
Per Hour	\$70.00	
Bubble Bath & Half Hour	\$50.00	
Bubble Bath & Hour	\$80.00	
Positions, \$5.00 ea. plus \$2.00 ea.		
Vibrator - \$15.00 plus regular party price plus \$5.00		
Doubles - double price per party, time same as one		

A D M I T O N E

(Receipt for services rendered)

**Oasis Bordello
Museum**

A Century of Service since 1895-1995
Historic Wallace, Idaho

No 995299

Museum, Gifts & Bordello Tour



A D M I T O N E

(Receipt for services rendered)

**Oasis Bordello
Museum**

A Century of Service since 1895-1995
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No 995300

Museum, Gifts & Bordello Tour



"While we're on it"

Basin

- 3rd step would - nang bungyer up s/m - Rick would do it, ~~to~~ putting vice a step, (to see girls) (maid ^{around})
- legal in W. Va to '74; '88 shut down (2 bottles left)
- button to cap shop for drinks
- gun went q nm (dura color coded) (pk holes from outside to the inside)
- \$2 into jk box for a drink
 - girl would mark her $\frac{1}{2}$ w/ fingernail polish (i.e., to claim tips later)
- "2 in. green!" - (wait g)
 - use next 1/2 gray) nm for next grp (or pink)
- girls scrubbed a n/ betw. 2 bottles (boys rented out ^{brined})
- madam lived in d'ness, to keep people from seeing mar int (locks on all drawers)
- girls wore swimsuits
- 3 who on, 1 of 1

Basin/2

- girls stored trunks in madam's rite
 - Camden empty note, a wall
 - \$35/mo "rent" for girls
 - later, madams bought his school band uni. & ms etc. (car)
- take by hand - Ek du hall - "coming thru!"
- wash pan & pitched
 - mirror dresser in wkg room
- "If you have enjoyed me why not reserve me pr. mt.
± pleasure + to remember!

wa
↳ understand of basin

Oasis/3

- cruise b. alley until '47 (1nd red lantern)
- 90 men to 1 female (could take it b w/ customer, put it back out when done)

- X - \$10

O - \$5

tuner for 8 min

writen tune to punch time clock

Maid tap o. der: "Tune's up"

Madam 60%, girl 40% → girls tipped - maid

\$30-50 usual

\$2-3000/girl on a Sat. nt in '60's (35-40 customers 3 pm - 4 a.m.)

- sped pills + diet pills

- had workman's camp until '85

- drawerful 7 tuners

Baru/4
creme de ment

A-200 to deliver a guy (w/ bubble bath)

Oasis Bordello Museum



Historic Wallace, Idaho

*Jack & Michelle (Eddins) Mayfield
605 Cedar Street
Wallace, Idaho 83873*

**(208) 753-0801
or 752-3721**

13 Feb. '98

Dear Joy and Brad--

Got a kick out of your Christmas letter. Brad, you're wasting your luck on Peru drawings--try the LOTTERY!

As to your footnote about reviewing Bucking the Sun, Joy, I feel my scholarly reputation is at stake in the research on, ahem, prostitution. Semi-seriously, you may know from your library career that the topic is one that doesn't show up readily in historical holdings. So imagine my pleased surprise when I was going through the 50 oral history tapes the Montana Historical Society did with Fort Peck Dam veterans and their families, and men and women alike were talking about Happy Hollow, the taxi dancers, the other women of the night...there was in fact one oral history participant whom you didn't have to listen to very far between the lines to realize she had first-hand experience, somewhere along the line. But I thought what your book club might find a hoot is the Oasis Bordello Museum in Wallace, Idaho. Carol and I heard the place mentioned by Jim Robbins, the NY Times stringer in Montana, at a conference, so in we went to Wallace on our way home to Seattle. The Oasis was closed down only about 20 years ago, so the women's garb and all else is right there as if they'd just walked out. The place is run as a museum by a mom-and-pop Wallace couple who lived in the town when the brothels ~~arrange~~ were going, so they're fountains of information--I picked up from them, for example, the Happy Hollow marking her silver dollars of "take" with nail polish as she cadges drinks out of Hugh Duff on p. 98. Anyway, Joy, I hope you and your group have some fun with the book. Hope to see you if we can make it to Montana this year (I'm finishing up the next novel).

in haste, but all best

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hua", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The year '97' has been a busy one for us. In July, Joy co-hosted the Hungate family reunion at Holter lake. There were people from several states who attended and the day was sunny with no rain to dampen the spirits.

The last week of August we attended the fiftieth anniversary of the China, Burma, India War II organization in Milwaukee, WI.

Sept. 18 th. Joy and I flew to Houston TX. Our War II Bomber crew had been chosen to be guests of honor at the Airport Appreciation day. This yearly event is sponsored by the north west Chamber of Commerce of Houston to celebrate intercontinental aviation. The airlines flew us free of charge and the Mariot hotel located at the airport, put us up for three nights at no cost to 8 crew members and their spouses. At the luncheon our crew was presented with a plaque, dedicated to the P. O. W's who built the wooden bridge over the River Kwai, and to the crew who bombed and destroyed it on April 3, 1945. The plaque is to be placed in the Air Force museum located at Austin, TX.

In exchange for all of the hospitality we were asked to bring any memorabilia we had and to display it at a booth in a large hanger on the airport. I was amazed at the interest shown by the younger generation. They visited with us about our experiences and many thanked us for what we had done to preserve freedom. It was one of the greatest experiences I have ever had.

They had a lot of door prize drawings. I, who had never won more than a box of candy in my whole life, won a trip for two to Peru and a tour to the Aztec ruins. The high altitude eliminates me from the trip so we are going to substitute Brad and Victoria.

Other than these two trips, our life is quite routine. Joy plays bridge every week, and belongs to a book club. We enjoy the grandchildren. Rhys, 12, is into sports and scouting. He recently joined the junior league for hockey. Liz, 10 in Jan., likes basketball. The boys in the neighborhood ask her to play one on one with them.

Brad

I know this finds you busy. Hope you are both well. The feel fortunate to still be a tosser and, generally mobile. I'm reviewing Ivan's "Backing the Sun" for my book club in April. I always emphasize his meticulous research and I don't quite know how he researched prostitution. If you want to let me know, Ivan, I will convey it to the Twentieth Century Club - Joy