



--2010 newsletter edited by Jeri Kleppin--

2009-2010 Board of SHRC

Lynn Isaacson, 2011, president

Wes Higgins, 2011

Dick Bergquist, 2011

Jeri Kleppin, 2010, co-secretary

Wendy Stokes, 2011, co-secretary

Pat Womack, 2010

Blake Coats, 2012

Tim Manser, 2012, treasurer

Sharon Widner, 2012

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE

2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 14

At Hooker Hall



2010 Letter from our President

This past year has seen more progress on the museum. We are still trying to come up with appropriate exhibits for our completed room on the second floor. We feel that we need some direction from someone experienced in setting up displays to give

some guidance. We are investigating resources for doing this. We would also like to reserve space so that we could accommodate traveling exhibits to add variety at the museum.

We again hosted the Irish dance troupe and enjoyed their lively presentation. The ministerial association had their Christmas music night which was enjoyed by all.

We have an agreement with the Court Street Cruise auto club for them to put an auto display in the basement. They have started to clean an area out for this display. It was decided to use the basement for its accessibility. This will necessitate putting hand rails down the stairway for safety.

We had a youth dance in the ballroom around Christmas time which was not a great success because the electric space heaters we have would not provide sufficient heat to warm the room to a comfortable temperature. In order to make use of this room, we are going to have to install some kind of furnace in the attic for heating and air conditioning. We are hoping one of our local HVAC contractors can come up with a used furnace which will meet our requirements. As this room will only be used intermittently, a used furnace should do a good job for a lot less cost.

The electrical service for the northwest room on the second floor has been roughed in which is an important milestone for the

museum as this put electrical service to all the rooms on the second floor. We also have installed lights in the hallway on the third floor so we don't have to go down this dark hallway anymore.

We would like to finish the second floor and turn our attention more to upgrading and expanding our exhibits whereas, our past focus since the fire has been on restoration of the fire damage. Maybe we should leave restoration of the balance of the 3rd floor to the future. We would also like to get the auditorium and the ballroom to stages where we can offer it to the community on a year-around basis and find it comfortable to be in.

This past year has seen a decline in grant money and a subsequent decline in work accomplished. If the economy starts to recover we hope we can again see more income which can be used to further upgrade our museum. Again, we solicit your help in furthering the work on the museum.

SRHC Holiday Tour of Homes

Helping to start the Christmas season, the Snake River Heritage Center held their annual Holiday Tour of Homes the afternoon of December 5th.

The Tour this year featured homes that were constructed in a time period ranging from the early 1900s to the 1950s.

Homes in town included the 1905 house of Ardis Lantz; the 1920 homes of Steve and Karen Penner and Ted and Esta Pettet; the James and Gloria Castro home, which was the home of Judge Frank Harris built around 1911; and the Kim and Joanne Rowley home built in the 1950s.

A trip out to 1500 Cove Road took us to the home of Wayne and Brenda Aldrich. It was built in 1900 for Edwin D. Ford, designed by the Boise architectural firm of Tourtellotte.

For the first time on the Tour was the first floor of the museum in Hooker Hall. The Tour concluded at Slocum Hall for refreshments. Slocum is now the National Oldtime Fiddle Association headquarters. Besides the refreshments, the Fiddle Committee had arranged an afternoon of music.

Sheryl Davidson of New Plymouth was the winner of the Christmas Basket door prize

The museum Board appreciates the folks who graciously opened their homes and also to the Fiddle Committee.

The Tour of Homes is a fundraiser for the museum. If anyone would like to have their home on the Tour, please contact us. We would love to show it.

Lifetime Memberships are Appreciated!

The Board is indebted to all the committed patrons of the museum. The following are Lifetime Members:

Mr. & Mrs. Gish Amano, Sally Baker, Glendora Brown, Tom & Donna Butterfield, Allen & Tonya Capurro, Roy & Norma Dickerson, Jim & Judy Grunke, Joe & Margaret Hinson, Hope Jackson, Janet Koskella, Lois Lee, Ella M. Maisch, Mike & Lisa McKnight, Rick & Sandy Michael, Charles & Kathryn Mitchell, Ruth Reeves, Robert Self, Harry & Angie Soulen, Don & Yvonne Stephens, Stuart & Shawna Syme, Richard Taylor, David & Allison Taylor, Mike & Diana Thomas, William Tindall, Donald Tribble, Beverly Williams.

Many Thank You's

It is indeed a community service for the Weiser School District to allow us to use their copier for this newsletter. We are grateful for their dedication to the educational purpose of the museum.

Word from Wes Higgins.....

It has been a long difficult task, but we are putting the building we call home for the SRHC back together. After the fire there were those who wanted to scrap Hooker Hall all together. However, every time I walk through the building, seeing what has been accomplished, I am very grateful we did not let those dissenting voices prevail.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members, as well as all those who have worked hard for the reconstruction, for their dedication and hard work. In the past we have been a Board of construction. We are now far enough along in the rebuilding process that we can start changing our emphasis to become a Board of utilization.

This year has seen the completion of the north west room on the second floor, which now sets waiting as we plan how best to utilize it. There is only one more major room on the second floor incomplete, and it is currently in the renewal process.

The Ballroom on the third floor has been repainted -WOW what a difference. The serving bar has been redesigned and we are inquiring into a heating and cooling system. Even the auditorium on the first floor has received some needed attention, receiving a new electrical panel and new furnaces. We are privileged to have had several group functions there this last year, and plans are being made for the coming season.

I encourage you to come up and take a tour of the museum. While there, take a look at the facilities Hooker Hall has to offer for public use.

The Unexpected Guest by Agatha Christie is in production with Blake Coats directing. Look for further information in local media about this spring performance.

The Treasurer tells us....

The Snake River Heritage Center is a Community Museum being operated as a "not for profit" organization and receives its funds from a variety of sources which include Washington County, grants from individuals and various business and governmental organizations, fund raiser events, memorials, individual and business donations, sales of various memorabilia offered by the Heritage Center and external space rental during the week of the National Old Time Fiddle contest. Monies spent during fiscal 2009 included contracts awarded for the various reconstruction efforts, fund raiser event expenses, inside and outside maintenance, office and accounting expenses, memorabilia purchases for resale, insurance and utility costs. There are no paid employees. Maintenance, upkeep, and the continual reconstruction of the facility was done through a "bid" process only, In addition, endless hours of community and staff work were donated. Our vision financially is to maintain our current grant providers as well as increase the grant base through increased and enhanced grant writing. The need for increased funding for the reconstruction runs high and will require hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars to complete.

In review of the fiscal 2009 financial structure of the SRHC, revenues from grants, donations, fundraisers, membership dues, memorials, in-house store sales, and interest income transfers were up 8,8% from the previous year. The monies spent

for the maintenance and renovation of the museum during fiscal 2009, were up 46%. Much work has been done by hire, but also by those who have donated their time and skills. We are deeply grateful to those. Currently and in the future, we will be working toward securing grants to help provide more funds that will be used in furthering the renovation of the building and in protecting the artifacts. We have much work to do and the financial requirements are high. Our balance sheet is healthy with a decrease of only 1% in our overall cash position held in local Weiser Idaho banks. Cash is held in secure accounts only. No money is housed in any speculative issue. As treasurer, I feel that the financial condition of the Museum is satisfactory and the board is making good decisions in allocating the funds for renovation and operations. We ask for your financial donations during this new year and thank you for your past support.

Special Visitors

On the 16th of February county commissioners Roy Mink, Michael Hopkins, and Rick Michael, came to the museum for a tour and lunch with the museum board members. It had been some time since their last visit and many things had been accomplished since. The commissioners enjoyed their tour so much that they had to be hurried along in order to have time to eat lunch before they were off to another appointment. The County Commissioners support over the years has helped us with our on-going reconstruction and many projects. We are grateful to them for their support, and it is always a pleasure to share lunch with them and have a good visit.

Photo Collection Work Progresses

Each Tuesday morning several ladies gather at Hooker Hall to continue the detailed work with the photograph collection. We are still finding photos to sort and file. However, we are now in the process of handling photos we haven't see and are not catalogued. Some days we talk about the photo subjects and Weiser the way it was 60 years ago, adding memories and bits of local family histories – as well as asking many unanswered questions.

Join us at 10 A.M. next Tuesday for friendly work which relies on the abc's and 123's you learned. Many thank yous to Ruth Reeves, Irene Tallent, Dottie Emert, Edna Gillespie, and Margaret Norbaum for their willing hands and tidbits of local history.

REMEMBER:

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