



Snake River Heritage Center

2013 Newsletter

**THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SNAKE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 AT 6 P.M.**

AT THE MUSEUM LOCATED AT 2295 PADDOCK AVENUE, WEISER, IDAHO.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Lynn Isaacson

2012 saw work continue on the building. Work was started and continues on the last rooms on the second floor. We have only to refinish the floor in the "new" rooms and the north hallway to complete the second floor reconstruction. This will be a real milestone. We are grateful to all who contributed.

During the past year we were able to refurbish the bell tower for structural soundness. We removed all the old loosened stucco and wood, replaced the warped and loose wood with concrete board. A scratch coat of stucco was put over the whole surface of the bell tower. A fiberglass hardware cloth was embedded in the scratch coat and the entire surfaces received a finish coat of stucco. The total cost was greatly inflated by the need to install 80 vertical feet of scaffolding in order to access the work area.

While we had the scaffolding in place, we had the wood window sills and the trim painted on all areas that could be reached from the scaffolding. The total cost of the work was \$22,500, of which a major portion was installation and take down of the scaffolding. Although it was expensive, it was imperative that it be done to stop further deterioration of the structural parts of the bell tower.

Wade Higgins has again agreed to be our man in charge at the fiddle week activities. He did a great job last year. We need volunteers to help him during fiddle week. If you could help please contact one of the board members who will sign you up. This is one of our best financial endeavors of the year.

We want to thank the city for spraying the weeds in the back of the museum; last year; it was a great help.

We have a young scout working toward his Eagle award who is going to paint the fire escape on the north as his Eagle Scout project. We sure appreciate these young men helping us out at the museum with their projects.

Again we invite the public to come help us at the museum. It is the community's museum and we could use much more involvement from the community.

**Check out our website for
stories, photos,
and history:
www.weisermuseum.com**

BOARD MEMBERS

Lynn Isaacson, president	549-0174
Dick Bergquist, treasurer	549-2116
Jeri Kleppin, secretary	549-1353
Wes Higgins	549-2537
Pat Womack	549-3230
Blake Coats	414-1994
Sharon Widner	355-2314

BITS AND PIECES

Spring will bring Weiser's second graders for a tour/scavenger hunt and picnic at the museum

Weiser Class reunions tour and donate to their alma mater annually

Washington County Commissioners continue to support us monetarily

New acquisitions include arrowhead sets and Native American implements, as well as a revolving 4-sided case to be used for a photo history of Mortimer's Island

4-Hers will rejuvenate leather saddles and harnesses this spring

"Essential Idaho" exhibit at state museum includes an item from SRHC!! Tell us on our website when you find it!

New souvenirs are available at our gift shop

May will bring a musical dessert show for our mothers and daughters: pearls and pastels, lace and linens

Continuing the Reconstruction by Wes Higgins, vice president

I want to thank the SHR Board of Directors for their dedication and persistence. The restoration has been a long and difficult journey. After the fire in 1994 there were some who wanted to abandon Hooker Hall and the Institute grounds and build a new structure to house the museum artifacts. But, thankfully the Board of Directors choose to rebuild. And every Board since has reaffirmed that commitment.

Well, the job isn't over yet. We are now ready to enter the last leg of the 2nd floor restoration. The northwest rooms are nearing completion. After the initial clean out, the outside walls were fired out and new electrical wiring was installed throughout. This last year the old walls and ceiling were completely stripped clean and new drywall was installed and painted. Most recently we have patched the tongue and groove flooring; a large section of which had been burned. The base board has been installed along with door and window casing and trim. Much of the

material used in the restoration has been the original wood and has needed to be stripped and refinished. All that remains after this is the refinishing of the floor which is a major project in itself.

The only area remaining on the second floor, after these rooms are finished, is the north end hallway. It had been almost completely destroyed in the fire. It was rebuilt with a temporary sub floor. It now must be stripped back and fir tongue and groove installed.

The future plans for the north end of the building include an elevator for both access and freight. So there is still lots of work to be done. If you would like to do some hands on labor give us a call, we could use the help. If you are in a position to help financially we could use that help as well. The Bell Tower and 2nd floor restoration have heavily depleted our funds.

Volunteering by Pat Womack

Our Snake River Heritage Center Museum is run by volunteers. We have eight board members who are all volunteers. We do not have any paid staff. The board members, along with other generous volunteers, clean, paint, set up displays, man the store, spray weeds, chaperone events, bake cookies, and host and tour visiting classes and visitors.

The museum is open to the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 P.M. Our ballroom and auditorium are available for community events on a donation basis all during the year. We have been very fortunate over the years to have church groups and groups of young men and women complete a lot of big projects for us. A big boost has been the numerous Eagle Scout Projects done at the museum, as well as the high school students and teachers who have completed the Holocaust Room and displays.

When we have work that volunteers cannot accomplish we have to hire someone to do the work, such as electrical. During Fiddle Week we have found it necessary to hire someone to oversee the vendors, campers and workshops held at the museum. However, we also depend on many volunteers to help in the museum and store during that busy week.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not mention some of our most faithful volunteers. For the past eight or nine years a group of ladies, under Jeri Kleppin's direction, has been coming in at least once a week to work on the old photos. They sort, clean, organize, and file the photos. Just when they think they are getting close to the end of the pile, they unearth another bunch.

The museum is always in need of more volunteers. Without our volunteers we could not have accomplished everything that has been done so far, and all the things that we have mapped out for the future. Since our fire in 1994, the restoration work that has been accomplished is quite remarkable, but much still remains to be done. Old Hooker Hall is a treasure that the whole community should be proud of.

We could use volunteers to help with displays, clean (always), and other tasks. We need volunteers for an upcoming spring event, during Fiddle Week, and for ongoing projects.

If the museum just isn't your cup of tea, volunteer somewhere else in the community; we are not the only place that need volunteers. A community like Weiser runs on the backs of its volunteers. Don't miss out!



Vertical Files and Accessioning

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Our research library is expanding by leaps and bounds. Besides our growing photo library, we have an expanded section of vertical files. Dottie Emert and Sandra Hansen have been diligently at work. They have dug through the dust-covered collection of boxes of books and documents on the third floor. Consequently they have found several items of great interest, as well as many objects of general concern. All of these have been cleaned, sorted, and filed. Another shelving unit, plus the two originals, have been loaded with archival boxes and files. A file cabinet now holds pages of information about and from former Weiser residents. The collection continues to grow as these ladies work hours at a time on a weekly basis.

Sandra is the curator/manager of the Cambridge museum who has been our mentor and guide for most of this restoration of items and artifacts. Besides assisting and guiding us, she has taken on the task of accessioning hundreds of items into our filing system. These are then labeled, cleaned, mended, and stored appropriately. These two ladies have dedicated their time and energy to tasks that they love and find fascinating.

Three other ladies, Sharon Widner, Judy Widener, and Pat Harberd, have tackled the arduous task of sorting the old, smoky and dusty card catalog. When this slow, methodical task is complete, we will be able to inventory our museum possessions.

We are always pleased to help visitors with inquiries about local or family history. Our research resources are growing.

Hooker Hall by Blake Coats

The Heritage Center hosted a variety of presentations in Hooker Hall during 2012 including orchestra, theater, and history events. Mike Turner's theater group presented several shows, the Weiser Youth Orchestra under the direction of Denise Rasmussen gave a Christmas concert, and State Archeologist, Ken Reid, presented information on the first peoples who lived in this area. In addition, local historian, Ken Walston, reviewed aspects of early Weiser history with a pair of lectures.

The Turner Youth Theater presented a show entitled "Peter Pan on the Fly" on October 23, 2012 at 7 pm in the museum auditorium. The audience was treated to practiced youth singing, dancing, and acting with a scripted piece of theater. Mike Turner has continued to provide several years of such opportunities for Weiser youngsters below high school age who are able to learn the basics of live theater as they take part in weekly rehearsals. Stay tuned for future works from this group.

Music is especially suited to Hooker Hall with its bright acoustics. Classical guitarist Jeffrey Bianchi from Atlanta, Georgia, gave a May 20 workshop there on marketing musical talent. Later that night the National Old Time Fiddle Contest committee co-sponsored a guitar concert featuring his work as a professional musician. Other musicians filled the acoustically bright auditorium both during Fiddle Week and at other times.

Denise Rasmussen's Weiser Youth Symphony presented a program of Christmas music last December. Dressed in concert black with beautiful lighted decorations around the stage, the 25 young orchestra members began their careers as orchestral performers with a delightful array of seasonal music on our stage. These musicians, coming from the

Weiser school's band programs and from private tutoring programs, have a unique opportunity in Hooker Hall to learn the skills involved in working with a large group and presenting music for a live audience in a venue perfectly built to enhance the sound they produce. This orchestra practices weekly and is now preparing for their next show, a classical concert featuring material from composers such as Strauss, Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, and Gustav Mahler. The show will take place on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:30, in Hooker Hall. In June they plan to present a Pops and Patriotic music concert for the community. Volunteer musicians, both young and old are invited to help out and adults who can provide help backstage with lights and other improvements are encouraged to call Denise at 549-1218.

"To Cache or To Carry?" was the multi-meaning title for State Archaeologist, Ken Reid's talk about early Idaho Stone Age economics. He covered information about some of the earliest and most elaborate prehistoric features in Idaho, including buried sets of artifacts, from Idaho's Paleoindian cultures and from the later Western Idaho Archaic Burial Complex. Over two dozen eager listeners enjoyed seeing pictures of and artifacts about peoples from long ago. Ken promised to return to elaborate on more recent native people's life in this area.

And, finally, Ken Walston, our local expert in Weiser history gave talks on Weiser past, including one titled "An Historical Perspective On How Our Forefathers Became Rich." Listeners met the bankers, miners, and business entrepreneurs of early Weiser, in the auditorium on September 29.

The SRHC is delighted to be able to provide a venue for such a variety of cultural experiences. Community members are encouraged to support those who dedicate time and talent in offering our town the unique chance to grow in knowledge and appreciation of our history and our culture.



SRHC Financial Report: 2012 by Dick Bergquist, Treasurer and Web Master

The museum's financial condition is still okay, but because of an urgent need to repair the exterior walls of the clock tower, at a cost of \$22,500.00, our finances are at the lowest level they have been for several years. Our total donation income on September 30, 2012, the end of fiscal year 2012, was up by \$2,224.58 over fiscal year 2011. This increase can be attributed to an increase in our membership donations and the donations from the 2012 Fiddle week.

However, our donation income from October 1, 2012 to the end of February 2013 was only \$23.62 less than the same period last year, but our expenses, including Clock Tower re-facing, was up by \$21,978.01. We also completed some other significant projects this past year that contributed to the large increase in funds used this past year. This means that our funds at this point are much lower than normal and it will take some time to bring them back to the level we were at just a year ago. We will need all the donations we can get and hopefully we can get some grants to help with

these major expenses. Please remember to renew your membership annually. You may use the form provided in the newsletter.

The Board of Directors takes using the Museum's funds very seriously. No project are undertaken unless the Board approves it and can justify the need.

It is our continued hope that everyone will continue their membership with this worthy cause and will help introduce others to the museum and its efforts to preserve this area's heritage. Monetary donations are not the only donations need, but donations of time and manpower are in great need and are appreciated to the utmost. If anyone has question about our financial report please contact me at info@weisermuseum.com and please go to www.weisermuseum.com if you would like to read this and past museum newsletters. Please checkout our website and share with your friends and please give us suggestions on how to make it better.

Lifetime Memberships

It is with great appreciation that we acknowledge our lifetime members here.

Mr. and Mrs. Gish Amano
Sally Baker
Glendora Brown
Tom and Donna Butterfield
Allen and Tonya Capurro
Norma Dickerson
Lorene Kittams
James and Judy Grunke
Pat Harberd
Kelly and Herb Haun
Wes Higgins
Joseph and Margaret Hinson
Hope Jackson
Janet Koskella
Lois Lee
Roger and Whitney Lindquist
Rick and Barb McDaniel

Benny and Petra McDaniel
Jack McDaniel
Mike and Lisa McKnight
Ella Maisch
Rick and Sandy Michael
Charles and Kathryn Mitchell
Terry and Lori Mooney
Ruth Reeves
Robert Self
Harry and Angie Soulen
Phil Soulen
Don and Yvonne Stephens
Stuart and Shawna Syme
Richard Taylor
David and Allison Taylor
Mike and Dianna Thomas
William Tindall
Donald Tribble
John and Mary Walker
Beverly Williams

Snake River Heritage Center Membership Application

We greatly appreciate all assistance that members are able to contribute. Contact us for further ways you can assist the SRHC in its maintenance and growth.

FAMILY: \$25

BUSINESS: \$75

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$300

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SEND YOUR DUES AND BALLOT TO:

Snake River Heritage Center

P.O. Box 307

Weiser, ID 83672

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Election Ballot

Board Member Candidates

Please vote for two or more.

_____ Jeri Kleppin, 2013

_____ Pat Womack, 2013

WRITE IN: _____

Current Board Members

These are not due for re-election.

Lynn Isaacson, 2014

Dick Bergquist, 2014

Wendy Stokes, 2014

Wes Higgins, 2014

Blake Coats, 2012

Sharon Widner, 2012

*Pat Harberd, Board Member at large

*Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter,

Honorary Board Member

This ballot must be received before or at the annual meeting
to be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at 6 P.M.
at the Snake River Heritage Center, P.O. Box 307, Weiser, ID 83672.