

# SNAKE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER

## 2015 NEWSLETTER

**The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Snake River Heritage Center will be held on Wednesday, April 8, at 6:30 P.M. at the museum located at 2295 Paddock Avenue, Weiser, Idaho.**

### BOARD MEMBERS

Wes Higgins, president  
Dick Bergquist, treasurer  
Jeri Kleppin, secretary  
Lynn Isaacson  
Pat Womack  
Blake Coats  
Dottie Emert  
Ken Walston  
Pat Harberd, board member at large

### ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S VIEW

What an amazing year it has been since the last newsletter. So much is going on and so much has been accomplished. I am especially gratified when I see so many volunteers working in different areas of the Heritage Center, including the library archives and the accessioning of the many items we still have in storage. Then there are the many volunteer groups that have come in to clean and maintain the building. Thank all of you very much.

It has been exciting to see the many activities that are taking place in the auditorium: every thing from the Weiser Youth Symphony to Turner's student drama groups, plays, musicals, recitals, and graduations.

The ballroom has also received a lot of use throughout the year. There have been weddings, dances and work shops held in this third floor venue. Various groups have held the dances, including LDS youth groups and the Western

Swing dance held during Fiddle Week and sponsored by the Stickerville community. Many work projects have been completed this past year, starting with the refinishing of the ballroom floor and ending with the completion of a new heating system for the ballroom. A special thanks goes out to Gary Youngberg of One Hour Heating and Cooling for donating much of the cost involved in installing the heating system. Now the ballroom can be enjoyed even more.

Several young men completed Eagle Scott projects that have been very beneficial to the overall beauty and utility of our building.

A warm thank you goes out to Wade Higgins and his three daughters for their work during Fiddle Week. Fiddle Week at Hooker Hall has turned into a week and a half of non stop activities.

Other projects have been completed, including the extension of the lawn on both the north and south sides of the building with trees and sprinkler system. This job was done for us at a very reasonable cost by Grant Knapp of Sunshine Landscaping.

The second floor has seen a lot of work completed this year including the refinishing of the floors in the three northwest rooms and the south hallway. And, finally, there is a new floor in the north hallway and the south hallway was painted. Thank Randy Evans of Evans Hardwood Flooring for the floors and Evert Pierce for the painting.

The second floor Native American room has undergone renewal with the expert assistance of Dr. Brooke Arkush and his wife, Denise. Their professional work will be honored with a Native

American blessing this spring. We could not be prouder! More information is contained in this newsletter.

So much has taken place this past year that I may have missed mentioning something, but I want to thank, once again, all the volunteers and contractors for their help in accomplishing all that has been done.

As soon as the doors are opened this spring you will want to come and see for yourself all that has been and is being done. Included in all this are a number of new displays that will be completed. So come visit.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR MARCH 2015**

This past year from February 2014 to February 2015 has been very busy with several major projects that have put quite a drain on the museum's operating funds. We are still financially sound, but our funds have been drawn down to the lowest level we have been at for this time of the year for a long time.

The total amount we took in from February 2014 to February 2015 was \$25,470.13 which was actually \$295.41 more than the same period a year ago. That amount did include our only grant of \$2500 received from the Idaho Heritage Trust designated for the ballroom floor project. Funds generated from Fiddle Week 2014 were up 14.8% with our expenses for that week being almost the same as the previous year. However, donations for membership for the past year were down 23.3% from the prior year.

Our total expenses for the same period reported above were up 167.8% or \$26,970.37 more than the prior year. The increase in expenditures was largely due to some of the major projects we undertook this past year. Some of them included refinishing the Ball Room floor and also putting a heating system in there. Also, the hallway floors and other flooring were redone on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor along with some painting and trimming. We also

purchased a fair amount of window blinds. Another big expense was extending the lawn on both ends of the museum to improve the appearance and to also provide more camping area during Fiddle Week.

I cannot express enough how grateful we are for all the generous support we receive from our faithful members and others! There is no way that we can thank you enough and without your support it would not be possible to keep the museum open or make needed improvements.

We can always use more help and if you are not able to help financially but have some time, and are physically able, we have many things that need to be done. We especially could use help during our summer hours by having people who could spend some time showing people around the museum during operating hours. By Dick Bergquist, treasurer.

### **AUTHOR OF LOCAL HISTORY**

Ken Walston, one of the museum's board members, is just about finished with his first book of Weiser history. Book one is titled the "Golden Age of Weiser, Idaho. A History from 1879 - 1883." It is Ken's plan to write several books with each one covering a four or five-year span of time. At the completion of this ambitious project the history will extend from 1879 to the end of 1919.

This first book has been three years in the making with most of the time spent doing research to find all the facts that are included in the book. It is anticipated the first book will be available from the printers in time for Fiddle Week in June. Hopefully before!

We will honor this publication with a book signing celebration this spring. Again check out our Weiser museum Facebook page or website for information.

Our web page is [www.weisermuseum.com](http://www.weisermuseum.com)  
and please "like" us on Facebook

## NATIVE AMERICAN ROOM

Are you a/an: 1. Aqaideka 2. Kutsundeka 3. Tukedeka 4. Wobiaqvideka or 5. All of the above?

Whether you are a salmon eater (aqaideka), a buffalo eater (kusundeka), a mountain sheep eater (tukedak), or a driftwood salmon eater (wobiaqvideka)\*, or all of the above, you are bound to learn something new and interesting from the information available in the new Native American Room at the Snake River Heritage Center. The information is great, but it is the artifacts that steal the show. There are literally thousands of arrow and dart points, many ground stone implements such as manos, metates, mortars and pestles, a camp diorama scene, and leather and beaded items to name a few. Archaeologists, volunteers, and other specialists have been working on this room in hopes it will be an educational, interesting, and fun place for the community. We hope you will join us soon!

Watch for the Native American Room open house in this spring of 2015. Our friends from the Weiser Native American Club will soon be helping us give the room a Native blessing and will be at the open house as guests of honor. Watch our website or find us on Facebook for this event.

\*Shoshone groups often referred to themselves by the main foods they were seeking and consuming locally. The Shoshone of the Weiser Valley often referred to themselves as “tukedeka” when hunting sheep in Hells Canyon or when hunting with other Sheepeaters of the Middle Fork region. Another name for the Weiser Shoshone was Wobiaqvideka, “driftwood salmon eaters”, because of their heavy reliance on salmon and from the salmon’s habit of lying under driftwood in small streams (Corless,1990).  
By Denise Arkush

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

The community has organized a Youth Symphony Orchestra under the direction and sponsorship of Denise Rasmussen. We have made the museum auditorium available for their practices and performances. They are well pleased with the auditorium’s acoustics and as a venue for their performances. The membership has grown to the point that they needed more performance room.

Consequently, Denise, and her son Daniel came to the board with a proposal to enlarge the stage by extending it out four feet as Daniel's Eagle Scout Project. After consideration by the Board of Directors we gave Daniel the approval to go ahead with his project.

The project entailed pouring concrete to provide a wide walkway in front of the stage, building the structure on which to build the lengthened stage, putting in the sub floor, installing flooring and finishing the new part to match the existing floor.

With help of family and friends he was able get donations for the necessary materials and the help to complete the project. The Project is a very good addition to Snake river Heritage Centers Museum and was carried out in a very professional manner. Many thanks to Daniel and those who helped with the stage extension.

Jarom Tolman also came to the board and requested a project for his Eagle Scout Project. After consulting with board painting of the fire escape on the north side of the museum was proposed to Jarom.

He accepted the project and after many starts and stops, through his and friends’ efforts, he was able to completely paint all three floors of the fire escape structure. His efforts not only added to the beauty of the museum, but will provide protection to the metal which makes up the structure.

Again the Snake River Heritage Center Board would like to thank Jarom and those who helped him completing this project.

**PROTECT THE PAST – IT BELONGS TO ALL OF US**

## EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Look for lots of new and refurbished displays at the museum when we open this spring. With the completion of one large room on the second floor, we are eager to start finalizing the displays. The wood floor has been beautifully refinished for our ranch and alumni room. We are looking forward to highlighting some of our local ranchers along with artifacts, pictures, and information, honoring some from the past. If you have artifacts in good condition laying around that you don't know what to do with, consider talking to a board member about possibly donating them to the museum, where generations to come can enjoy and learn from them.

We are still in need of someone with knowledge about fossils to help in that area. We have quite a few fossils, but need information about them. If you have a few extra hours a week --- come and help. You might be surprised how much you enjoy it.

By Pat Womack

## THANK YOU!

Again this year we owe a heartfelt note of gratitude to our education system in Weiser. It is quite often that we ply on the brute strength and captive audience at the Indianhead Academy for physical assistance on a moving day here at the museum. We have grown to depend on you.

The Weiser school district office has for years granted us the use of their copy machine for printing this news. And, the Middle School Honor Society has stepped up to assist in the handling of the letter to ready it for post. Bravo for the community service offered and emphasized within our schools.

Several donors and volunteers keep our building jumping! It is great fun to see groups gathering to clean, repair, restore, move artifacts and set up new displays! We greatly appreciate the hours and efforts of each individual and/or group.

On a weekly basis we have eight to ten people assembling in the office and library to sort, label, accession, or file. Join us on a Wednesday morning if you would like to volunteer your time and skills. We have something for everyone!

## INTERMOUNTAIN INSTITUTE POETRY

The following poems were printed in the Intermountain Institute's 1928 annual, *Tahkodah*.

### *The Boys Upon the Hill*

*There were some boys lived on a hill  
And on the hill lived they.  
To play football was their intent,  
And Oh! How they could play.*

*Those went down to Weiser town  
To win and show their skill.  
They fought and scrapped as ne'er before,  
And brought back home the kill.*

*Now those big boys who won that day;  
Sons of the Green and White,  
Like you and me have loyalty.  
So for our 'Tute let's fight!  
-E. Morgan.*

### *The Sleeping Indian*

*Lying with his mighty face uplifted,  
Silhouetted against the evening sky,  
Lies the bronzed and stately Indian  
Guarding the sons of old I. I.*

*He, the proud and mighty Indian  
Whose weeping head-dress flows  
To the water's edge of the mighty Snake  
Running far below.*

*He, with solemn face uplifted  
As if asking God above  
To help his vanishing kinsmen  
The I. I. sons he loves.  
-Herbert Tarter*

Our web page is [www.weisermuseum.com](http://www.weisermuseum.com)  
and please "like" us on Facebook.

## 2014 LIFETIME MEMBERS OF SRHC

Mr. & Mrs. Gish Amano  
Sally Baker  
Glendora Brown  
Don & Marilyn Burris  
Tom & Donna Butterfield  
Allen & Tonya Capurro  
Marg Chipman  
Norma Dickerson  
F. Lee & Dorine M. Eisenbarth  
Lorene Kittams  
Jim & Judy Grunke  
Herb & Kelly Haun  
Pat Harberd  
Wes Higgins  
Joseph & Margaret Hinson  
Carolyn Hussman  
Hope Jackson  
Sally & Perry Kelley  
Dorlene Laird  
Lois Lee  
Roger & Whitney Lindquist  
Dale & Ginny Mammen  
Ella Maisch  
Wendy Martell  
Rick & Barb McDaniel  
Benny & Petra McDaniel  
Jack McDaniel Construction  
Mike & Lisa McKnight  
Rick & Sandy Michael  
Charles & Kathrun Mitchell  
Terry & Lori Mooney  
Ruth Reeves  
Robert O. Self  
Harry & Angie Soulen  
Phil Soulen  
Don & Yvonne Stephens  
Stuart & Shawna Syme  
Richard Taylor  
David & Allison Taylor  
Mike & Diana Thomas  
William Tindall  
Donald Tribble  
John Walker  
Lorraine Trudy Walker  
Ken Walston  
Beverly Williams

## SWEET SONGS IN THE AUDITORIUM

Not only does the auditorium look different with the newly extended stage and doorway curtains, it sounds wonderfully alive with the sounds of music!!

The Weiser Youth Symphony, conducted and directed by Denise Rasmussen, continues to meet for rehearsals each week in the auditorium. Currently there are 38 youth and adult musicians. Their most recent performance was in December. The orchestra's next concert will be Tuesday, March 17th at 7:30 P.M. They will be playing classical music of great composers representing many different countries. Admission is \$20/family and \$5/individual at the door.

Rehearsals will resume on March 31 in preparation for their Pops concert on Friday, June 5th at 7:30 P.M. when they will showcase some of the graduating seniors in the symphony. Dr. Bob Armstrong will also be a guest soloist, playing *Nella Fantasia* on the saw. Please come and support this wonderful community organization!

The Turner Advanced Theatre Group is again practicing on Wednesdays for their musical drama presentation in May. Between Mike Turner and Tori Thomas, nearly 50 students have had stage time and musical instruction to help them with performances for their parents and guests who are most welcome.

This winter we have had Tori Thomas' vocal students present their talents on stage in February. Two piano recitals have also filled the auditorium with beautiful music by Sherilee Walker's students.

## SEOND GRADERS

It is close to spring and the annual second grade tours in May are our favorites! As they play "I spy" through the museum for their scavenger hunt items, they are impressed with those phones that will not fit in their pockets and the old school desks which seem strange to them. They search for artifacts on their pictured lists inside and outside the building. After this guided tour, they lunch on the lawn and walk back to Pioneer School. We love these students and their teachers who plan the activity each spring.