



Edited by Jeri Kleppin

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THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SNAKE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 12 AT 6 P.M. AT THE MUSEUM LOCATED AT 2295 PADDOCK AVENUE, WEISER, IDAHO.

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President Isaacson's Report

Work at the museum slowed considerably during 2010 due to a slow down in both volunteer labor and donations. We are presently trying to finish up reconstruction work on the second floor. However, we did have good activity with Eagle Scout projects this year.

Brennan Tolman worked on the outside of Hooker Hall. He washed the areas of trim to the top of the 2nd floor windows and painted that high all around the building. It improved the looks of the building tremendously.

Bennett Bergquist expanded the chain link fencing around Harper's cabin, laid down weed block fabric, covered the area with gravel and placed an antique wagon in the area. He also applied oil toe to the outside of Harper's cabin to help preserve the wood.

Darren Thomas applied a caulking material between the logs of Harper's cabin to fill the spaces between the logs. This not only made the cabin more weather tight it also added to authenticity of the cabin as this was what the pioneers did to keep the weather out. We really appreciate the work the scouts do at the museum as it helps improve the facility as it gives them a chance for a meaningful service.

Also, this year we were able to have a fire escape door with a panic bar installed in the doorway under the stage. The door under there was not able to be opened easily and was a trap in case of fire if anyone was caught down there.

We have been having trouble with the tower clock. There is difficulty finding pulleys that will hold up to the strain of the cable which rings the chimes. The clock has been down for some time while we try to rectify this problem. We are awaiting new pulleys which we hope will be forthcoming soon.

Improvements as enumerated above are not large, but are necessary. As long as we can keep moving forward, eventually we will be able to finish the museum. When we show people the museum we receive many positive comments. As president, I want to thank each and everyone who has done things to further the work on the museum. Many thank yous. Without the volunteers' work the museum would die. I do not believe any of us want to see that happen. Hopefully, this year will see an increase in charitable giving and we can find grants to move the work along.

We have many projects which yet need work. Some of the more notable are repairing the stucco on the bell tower, repairing the plaster on the stage, finishing the construction on the second floor, acquiring heating and air conditioning for the ball room and getting our exhibits up.

New Exhibit in Basement, Dick Bergquist

We are eagerly looking forward to a new exhibit opening this summer that is being sponsored by the Court Street Cruisers. The new exhibit will highlight the various car garages and dealers that were in operation in Weiser in the past and other significant automotive history for our area. The exhibit will be located in the basement and the plan is to have it ready for the public by this summer.

The Court Street Cruisers is a local car club which has sponsored the annual Court Street Cruise Car Show for the past several years. The money they raised has gone to help and support the community. One of their latest ventures has been the Automotive History display being setup at the museum which includes the following.

They have cleaned out a portion of the basement at the bottom of the stairs, painted the walls, floors and stairs. They will patch the holes in the stairwell wall to which they will attach a handrail.

They have purchased and installed a new insulated overhead door that accesses the basement from the outside ramp, making it more secure, warmer and easier to enter and exit from that access point. The door and installation was all paid for by the Court Street Cruisers and looks great.

They are fixing up the old bathroom in the basement also and will retain the historical look of the bathroom which will be similar to the bathrooms in the old garages.

Drywall is being put up around the old circuit panel at the bottom of the stairs which will be covered with Plexiglas to allow people to see the insides of the old panel. An old desk will be set up in that corner with parts/labor manuals and an old phone to represent the service office in a garage.

Liz Mowery has been commissioned to paint a four by six foot mural on a piece of sheet rock so it can hang where ever it will look the best. It will be framed to look like a window and have old garages on it. This should be a neat effect.

The City of Weiser has donated three signs to date. A wooden "One Way" sign, a wooden "30 minute Parking" sign, and a metal "No Parking" sign will all be on display.

Members of Court Street Cruise have been working hard on this exhibit and have some really great items to put in it. It will provide a great service to our community by preserving a portion of the rich

automotive history of this county. Weiser once had many thriving car dealerships, which was quite a thing to see and I am sure our younger generation could never imagine Weiser to have been such an automotive hub for this area.

We are all looking forward to the opening of the exhibit and I am sure if anyone knows of, or has any really good automotive historical information or items they would like to share, the club would love to hear about them. Please tell anyone you can about this upcoming exhibit.

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
Wes Higgins
Joseph and Margaret Hinson
Hope Jackson
Janet Koskella
Lois Lee
Ella Maisch
Mike and Lisa McKnight
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 Tidall
Donald Tribble
Beverly Williams

Holocaust Remembrance Exhibit Room, Michelle Chavez, Jann Bell, Kyla Dickerson, Lori Mooney

May 2010, Michelle Chavez, an English teacher at Weiser High School, produced an amazing recreation of a Holocaust Camp in the small gym at Weiser High School. Over 700 people from several schools and communities attended this emotional and educational experience. At the end of that event, there was a desire to find a permanent 'home' for the exhibit. The Snake River Heritage Center graciously stepped forward and offered a room in the museum. The room is located on the third floor and required a 'redo' to fit the needs of the exhibit. In December 2010, Ms. Chavez' English 4 class spent 2 hours tearing down and removing the lath and plaster walls. March 2011 the National Honor Society students assisted in insulating and prepping the walls for the next step - drywall. At this point in time, the dry wall project hasn't completely jelled yet. An area teenager is considering this as his Eagle Scout project. On the list to finish the room is: tape and texture, painting, floor re-finishing, trim and door refinishing, etc - the list goes on! If we had a timeline - we would like to complete this project by fall 2011 - we are waiting on news for another grant and plan to host a BIG celebration and open the room to the public! We wish to thank the SRHC for all their interest and support with this project.

Newsletter Publication, Jeri Kleppin
Weiser School District has allowed us to print this newsletter on their copy machine for free over the past several years. As we provided the paper and hands, they have graciously and generously given us access to their copier. Printing over 400 copies of an 6-page letter adds up quickly. This year, thinking we would need to print at a commercial copier, we are again grateful to Jim Reed for allowing us to pay their minimum cost per copy. This working relationship assists us by saving dollars which can be spent for other items at the museum.

The folding, taping, labeling, and sorting of the 400+ newsletters has been accomplished by the Junior Honor Society at the Middle School for many years. Their hands have made the mailing process much easier! Their rewards have been a simple thank you and a small candy bar. We are grateful for the service project that has been part of their mission under the direction of Marie Thomas and Nicole Miller.

Financial review, Tim Manser, Treasurer

Over all, the museum is in good financial condition and it remains healthy today. We have seen a substantial reduction in donation income which limits the museums display space revitalization program. We hope to secure additional monies from grants but availability of grant money is becoming more difficult as the economy continues to struggle.

Fiscal year ending September 30, 2010 showed current or liquid assets up \$4,009 over the previous year. Donation income from all sources however was down \$7,936. The largest declines stemmed from a reduction in grants and non-paid membership dues. Through good management techniques of the board of directors, operating expenses were lowered 8 ½% to help soften the sting of the reduction in donated income. In addition, only \$2,945 more was spent during this fiscal year as compared to last in the construction and revitalization of display rooms. Construction costs were held to a minimum because of the reduction in donation income.

We hope all that read this newsletter will help break the trend of forgotten membership dues as these dues are so very important in furthering the work that can be done at this great museum. We count on your financial support so very much.

Celtic Dancers, Blake Coats

To celebrate the work being done at the museum, along with St. Patrick's Day, the SRHC was open on Saturday, March 26, to host a repeat presentation of the Irish Dance Idaho. This much applauded group features fine footwork, which is especially suited to the stage in Hooker Hall. A large crowd enjoyed the toe-tapping sounds and smiling faces of the energetic and precision-oriented young dancers.

The dancers at Irish Dance Idaho are service oriented. You will see the IDI Dancers and families throughout the Treasure Valley as volunteers, teachers, and medical personnel, professionals serving well in their chosen fields, as students, and at home. The team preceded its performance with a clean-up workday to benefit the Museum.

Entry was by donation only and proceeds will benefit the SRHC and the IDI dance team.

The Photo Collection, Jeri Kleppin

Each Tuesday morning several ladies gather at the museum to continue the work of making our large photo collection accessible. Just as we believe we are nearing the end, more photos are discovered to be accessioned and added to our subject file.

Because of this newly created subject file, we have been able to access photos for interested individuals, as well as create a display of early Weiser photos.

Ken Walston has been a great addition to this effort of identifying pieces of information presented in the photos. Ken has become a welcome figure at the newspaper office, court house, as well as at the museum. His work digging through primary documents has added validity to our ongoing work with the photos. Many thank yous to Ruth Reeves, Irene Tallent, Edna Gillespie and Margaret Norborm for their detailed work.

Dottie Emert has taken on the creation of vertical files for our document collection. She has begun this work with bits and pieces, coupled with her experience working at the Cambridge Museum. A new copier/scanner has made this huge task run smoother and more concisely. We will soon be able to appreciate her work more as we look forward to moving into a library/work center at the museum to centralize our efforts.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND is our traditional time to open the museum for the summer season. We have much dusting and preparation work to be completed before we are ready though. We will arrange a time to host a work group from any organization to assist with the many spring tasks. There is outside work as well as painting, vacuuming and rearrangement of artifacts. Give us a call at 549-0205 or leave a message.

REMEMBER!

**ANNUAL MEETING AT THE MUSEUM
TUESDAY, APRIL 12 @6 P.M.**

**COMPLETE YOUR BALLOT AND BRING IT WITH
YOU TO THE MEETING, OR MAIL IT TO BE
COUNTED APRIL 12.**

Membership dues can be sent with your ballot!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS APPRECIATED!

