

Snake River Heritage Center

The mission of the Snake River Heritage Center is to bring together and preserve the heritage of the region, to promote the enjoyment of cultural, educational, and historical events.

Museum Board Members

Wes Higgins, President
Lynn Isaacson, Vice-President
Chris Hagans, Treasurer
Gaileen White, Secretary
Dottie Emert
Pat Womack
Ken Walston

The Auditorium is a real asset to the museum. We have been trying to update this facility to make it more serviceable.

We've replaced the ceiling over the stage and installed new furnaces. This spring we installed new air-conditioning units so we can use the Auditorium in the summer.

Youngberg One-Hour Heating installed the AC units, and Ray Sorenson/ Ace Electric did the electrical work. The funding was from a grant by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation.

Future work we would like to accomplish as money becomes available will be to upgrade the windows on the west side of the Auditorium and the stage lighting. New windows will allow greater efficiency from the air-conditioning.

The members of the symphony have trouble reading their music under the present lighting conditions. We can solve this with upgrades to the lighting on the stage.

The Auditorium has a seating capacity of approximately three hundred and has excellent acoustics. It is available for community events.

Lynn Isaacson

Annual Report from Our President

Wes Higgins

It has been a very good year for the Snake river Heritage Center. As I was preparing to write this report I came across the President's Report for 1995; written a little over a year after the devastating fire. It started out — "As I look back on the past year there have been times of frustration because of the seemingly little progress. Yet, as I look around Hooker Hall I can see how much has really been accomplished. Thanks to our many volunteers—hundreds of hours of work has been done."

It's the volunteers that over the years have made the museum we have today possible. In 1995 we were still in the cleaning and debris removal process. Rebuilding was in its earliest stages. It was the plan to reopen in June of 1996. I don't remember if we made it.

I can not say it often enough; it has been by sheer will, determination, and thousands of hours of volunteer labor, and no small amount of money, that our wonderful museum stands before us today. Of course, it is not done yet, there is still much to do.

If you haven't taken a tour recently—you need to come. The museum is changing all the time. The class room display is being expanded to include a section focusing on the old rural schools of the area. There will be a new typewriter display that has been several years in the making. Another new display will focus on Idaho gemstones. The Knights of the Pythians display has been completed and is absolutely striking.

The Ballroom is now heated, the Auditorium air-conditioned. Speaking of the Auditorium, come see and hear—the Weiser Youth Symphony, Turner's Kids group, piano recitals, music

Each year I spend a considerable amount of time doing photo restoration and job printing for the museum, and this year was no exception. There are always new photos to review or to produce, and copies of museum printing that need refurbishing.

In addition to printing, there was planning to be done. In this case, to plan for an elevator on the north end of the museum building which will enable folks who can't manage the stairs to come to the museum and visit all the exhibits in the building. Additionally it would provide a means to move heavy exhibits and hardware to the various floors.

Carpentry work was required and furnished to produce a bulletin board, of a somewhat unique design, for the School Room Display.

Historical research is always required to further our knowledge of times past. This provides information that is presented to our visitors and will hopefully make their visit more enjoyable.

And then there were numerous tours I conducted for our visitors. Many were during Fiddle week, but others were provided based on the timing needs of the visitors. Some were even given in the evening to accommodate the visitors' schedules.

Ken Walston

festivals, music workshops—the list goes on and on.

The 1995 President's Report included this statement—"The Board is determined to build from the devastation a better museum, a better cultural center. One that is used and will contribute to the community around us. We want a museum and cultural center — "Heritage Center", if you will — that now only we can be proud of, but one that the community and the state can look proudly upon." The Snake River Heritage Center is living up to that goal.

We had a good "Fiddle Week" with lots of activities. One of the highlights of the year was the "Solar Eclipse"; hundreds of people took advantage of the time to tour the museum. I want to thank all those who helped with the tours. A special thanks to Wade and crew for working both events.

Also thanks to all those working in cleaning and assessing, in display creation, in maintenance; it all takes a lot of time and work.

We look forward to another good year. The museum will be open Fridays and Saturdays throughout the summer, but tours can be arranged almost any time. To make an appointment for a tour after hours call:

Wes 208-549-2537, Dottie 208-549-1673, or Lynn 208-549-0174

See you at Hooker Hall!

THE YEAR OF 2017-2018 HAS BEEN VERY BUSY. FROM FEB. 2017 TO FEB. 2018, WE BROUGHT IN \$35,575.00, AND HAD EXPENDITURES OF \$26,099.10.

WE RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE LAURA MOORE CUNNINGHAM FOUNDATION FOR \$8300.00, WHICH WAS USED TO INSTALL AIR-CONDITIONING IN THE AUDITORIUM.

WE ALSO HAD A LOT OF EXTRA VISITORS DURING THE SOLAR ECLIPSE. IT HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR.

CHRIS HAGANS

I have largely worked with volunteer Sandra Hansen, Cambridge Museum Staff, and also with the other volunteers at the Museum. Our goal has been to accession and store in the basement storeroom the artifacts donated to the museum prior to the fire, and then returned to the museum. These artifacts were placed in three of the four rooms on the east wing of the third floor, and in the basement.

We have succeeded in cataloging and storing in the third-floor clothing room all of the clothing that had not previously been accessioned or is presently on display in the museum.

One room on the third floor has been completely cleared and is being turned into an exhibit room with an auxiliary clothing storage space. The storage area in this room was constructed by virtue of the Eagle Scout program and we wish to thank the young man and his work crew for the splendid job they did. We are presently working on the second room, cataloging and storing its contents in preparation for that room to be utilized as an exhibit room. The third room has been inventoried but is still largely in a state of chaos. We are seriously considering what to do to improve the condition of the basement. This area serves as a work room, a legitimate storage area, uncatalogued storage space for artifacts, and an exhibit area for our garage type artifacts.

We owe a large debt of gratitude to the students from the Alternative School now meeting in Slocum Hall. They have come to our assistance when we needed heavy objects moved up and down the stairs. We would not have been able to accomplish many of our goals without their strong right arms.

Another of our goals is to catalogue and file paperwork. We therefore feel responsible for maintaining vertical files on the historical places and events that have gone on in our city and county. Many of these types of artifacts have been too bulky for a vertical file and have been stored in archival boxes in the library area. We have received several donations from area clubs and organizations that are no longer functioning, and they are also archived in the library area. We also collect and file obituaries, both present and past, and they are on file in the library. As information comes in we file papers on the people, both past and present, in our city and county. We call this our "people file". All of this material is available for research by anyone interested in the history of their families, or of the area.

Another lady who has done much to help in the filing and cataloging of our material is Edna Gillespie, who is sorting, correcting, and filing the cards that are created for each object accessioned to the museum. It's a tedious job, but she is faithfully there every Wednesday sorting out the mistakes the rest of us make. Thank you Edna.

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

We recently received the artifacts that had been stored in the PYTHIAN CASTLE, and have been cleaning, sorting, and storing them for future display in the CASTLE itself. Dave Bean, president of the Preservation Committee, has been working to get these articles properly taken care of. He was also a prime mover in creating the Pythian display in the main hall of the museum. (Thank you also goes to Wes for installing the new glass in the display case.)

SCHOOL ROOM: A small mob of people pitched in and helped create a multi-faceted school room on the second floor. It depicts early "one-room" schools in the area, middle school, and high school displays, and a very large bulletin board for pictures and information on rural schools in the Weiser area. (Ken Walston built the board — thanks Ken!)

We are in the process of creating a more "welcoming" atmosphere in the foyer of the ballroom on the third floor. Karen and her faithful side-kick, Verla Smith, have arranged a lovely seating area and a display case, along with some other innovative ideas for that space.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work and serve with the other members of the Museum Board, and I am looking forward to the coming year.

Dottie Emert

I am so excited to be a part of the Snake River Heritage Center. As the newest member of the board, I am honored to be able to help.

Our little community is truly blessed to have such a wonderful organization available to us. We are very lucky to have so many people dedicated to sharing their love of history with us all.

We have many volunteers who come in each week to catalog, organize, and file the many photographs, documents, and artifacts. We also have folks who clean, repair, refurbish, and display the many donations. Other volunteers keep the office running and the business end of the Center going,

There are MANY folks behind the scenes who are indispensable in running the Snake River Heritage Center. I am in awe of all these talented people coming together in our behalf.

The Snake River Heritage Center is growing and improving all the time. There is always a need for helpers. If you would be willing to share of your time and talents, please call and let us know. We can put you to work. Call Wes, 208-549-2537 or Dottie, 208-549-1673 .

Last, but not least.....Be sure to let others know about the Snake River Heritage Center! Bring your out of town visitors. Bring your local friend who haven't been here yet. The Center is a huge asset to our community. Let's take advantage of that and make sure everyone knows what we have here.

Gaileen White

Snake River Heritage Center

Membership Application

2018

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

Lifetime Membership: \$300

Family Membership: \$25

Business Membership: \$75

Name_____

Mailing Address_____

Email Address_____

2018 Lifetime Members

The Museum board is fortified by all memberships and feels a responsibility to each member. The commitment offered is greatly appreciated. Lifetime memberships are a lasting legacy for you and the Snake River Heritage Center. We treasure your dedication and are encouraged by your enthusiasm for “our” museum!

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Dr. Brook & Denise Arkush
Sally Baker
Glendora Brown
Donald & Marilyn Burris
Tom & Donna Butterfield
Allen & Tonya Capurro
Marg Chipman
Gladys Cox
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Ken Walston
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