

# 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  
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Chris Hagans, Treasurer  
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Lynn Isaacson, Vice-President  
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## Annual Report from Our President

### Wes Higgins

Another year has passed. It is difficult to believe that the Snake River Heritage Center could get any better, but it just continues to improve. We have one of the greatest and most extensive museums in the state. If you doubt it, come and see. I want to thank the Board of Directors and all the volunteers for their hard work and accomplishments.

If it has been a year or more since you last toured the museum, you need to come back. You will see some old familiar displays, but you will also see new ones that have been added and others that have been updated. One of the areas that always catches my eye is the landing between the 2nd and 3rd floors, and the 3rd floor balcony. Volunteers have done a fantastic job of dressing the area up as it leads to the ballroom. Speaking of the third floor, a new exhibit featuring families of Weiser and Washington County is almost finished. Also, on the third floor another room has been refurbished, and will hold a new cultural exhibit in the future.

The auditorium is looking great, thanks to donations and grants, and a lot of volunteer work, including several Boy Scout projects. The donations and grants have allowed for many improvements including new

carpeting, new sound system and lighting; all of which add to the looks and function.

SHRC has a good research library. If you are interested in local history, or have a question about the history of a local family, bring it in. With the thousands of pictures and articles documented here, the staff loves finding answers. One recent request was made to find the year Bing Crosby performed in our auditorium. The research was done, and several Weiser High School yearbooks were found with Bing's autograph. Bing Crosby performed in the auditorium in 1959 and in 1960. It was also found that comedian Phil Harris performed here in 1960.

The SRHC is unique. We have extensive exhibits, we give personal tours, and we don't charge admission. We also have a ballroom for dances and weddings, an auditorium for live performances, and a tea room for small gatherings and meetings. Think of the SRHC for your next activity. Upcoming activities include concerts, recitals, the US Army Band, dances, speakers, and workshops.

While we grateful acknowledge the support we receive from Washington County and the City of Weiser, our annual upkeep and expenses exceed what they are able to do. Because if that, we rely heavily on donations from the public. Please keep us in mind.

## Construction Progress at the Museum

Lynn Isaacson, Vice-President

### Happenings Around the Museum

2019 was a busy year at the Heritage Center. One of the big projects was the cleaning, rearranging, sorting, and properly storing the artifacts our basement. Sandra Hansen came down from Cambridge to help us with this project, and the young men from next door at the Alternative Learning Center helped with the heavy lifting. It is now much easier to enjoy the display of “A Weiser Garage” that is housed in our basement.

On the second floor, a “Roaring Twenties” display was developed with the help of Verla Smith, Karen Milligan, and Gaileen White. We can now enjoy the clothing worn during that era that has been stored for so long in our Clothing Storage Area.

The Military Room is getting an uplift with some new artifacts being displayed and old ones being rearranged. Love that “Greatest Generation” room!

With all the renovation going on on the third floor we have had to rethink our huge book collection. Karen, Verla, and Dion have been working at cleaning (many of these books went through the fire and were badly smoke and fire damaged), sorting and boxing these books for proper storage until sometime when we will, perhaps develops a library to properly display them. In the meantime, Karen and Verla cleaned and

We had three Eagle Scout projects at the museum this year.

The first was by Lee Winegar. He worked on the Harper cabin. The logs and shingles the cabin were weathering badly and needed to have a protective coating applied thereon. Lee, with the help of others, cleaned the outside of the cabin, scraped the painted areas, and brushed the logs. They then masked the windows and applied to coats of boiled linseed oil to the outside surfaces.

The roof of the cabin is covered with wood shingles. There were shingles missing. Lee and his helpers replaced the missing shingles and applied shingle oil to the roof to keep the shingles from drying out and to help protect them from the weather.

The second project was done by Layten Tolman. He, along with helpers, removed the lathe and plaster from two walls in a room on the third floor of the museum that had been damaged in the 1994 fire. They then installed fire blocking in the east wall, hung sheetrock on the wall, and taped and textured the sheetrock. This prepared the wall for later painting.

The third project was done by Porter Walker. This project entailed furring out the west wall with 2x4s, putting insulation on the wall, hanging sheetrock, then taping and texturing the wall. This wall was also now ready for painting.

We hired a painter to paint the room, and have also installed light fixtures, switches, and outlets.

The floor has been sanded and will soon be refinished. This is the last room in the museum which will require extensive reconstruction. We’ve been at this since the fire in 1994. All the help both financially and physically during the restoration has been greatly appreciated. We feel we have a museum that Weiser can truly be proud of. We have received many positive comments from people who have toured the museum. We invite all to come and enjoy the many displays contained therein.

*This year (2018/19) we received a grant from the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation as well as some other donations that allowed us to do some major updates to the auditorium. This will help to make it a much nicer forum for performances and presentations, while still keeping with the original atmosphere. We have some work to do to finish up the lighting. We are so thankful for all the donations and memberships that we continue to receive, as well as the grants which enable us to continue to update the Heritage Center. Chris Hagans, Treasurer*

The Auditorium of the Snake River Heritage Center has been receiving some much needed upgrades in the past several months.

With the help of a substantial grant and other private donations totaling \$32,328.00, we have been able to upgrade the lighting and sound system; replace the carpet; touch up paint; and replace the window coverings. We also appreciate the many service hours that individuals and Boy Scouts have donated. With these changes we know it will attract more community events to the museum including musical, theatrical, and speaking engagements. Our goal is to further promote the SRHC as a place of learning and cultural experiences for the families in our area. We hope to host an event in the future for the public to come see the improvements and further promote SRHC.

In the past year, the auditorium has been used for local musical recitals, concerts with the Weiser Youth Symphony, performances by the Duck Soup Brigade, (a live, old-time radio show), professional meetings, and multiple music camps during the summer. The auditorium has always been a great venue for these events and with the new additions, will only increase its popularity by bringing more revenue and exposure to the museum and all it has to offer.

If you have an event you would like to schedule at the SRHC, whether it be the auditorium, ballroom, or tea room, please contact Denise Rasmussen at 208-550-0028.

**With all the wonderful changes to the auditorium, we still have one more project costing about \$5000 to finish the stage lighting. Once completed, we will have everything needed to offer a host of opportunities to performers and community members. We humbly ask for your donations to see this project to completion. Any and all donations will be gratefully accepted. We hope to have enough to schedule contractors by Sept. 1st. Tax deductible donations can be sent to: SRHC, Attn: Treasurer Chris Hagans, P.O. Box 307, Weiser, ID 83672**

*Thank you for your commitment and long time support of the museum!*

sorted our large collection of law books. They will be housed in the third floor room that is now nearly finished with construction, along with the histories of the two Weiser pioneer attorneys who once owned the books.

The Harris-Scheloske family has generously donated the family artifacts from these two Weiser pioneer families, and we are nearly finished developing a "Pioneer" room to house this collection along with our collections from other early pioneers of the Weiser area. Another third-floor room has been painted, carpeted, lighted, and curtained, thanks to the Harris-Scheloske family generosity. You will soon be able to enjoy yet another historical and educational area in our museum.

Record-keeping is a great challenge in maintaining a viable museum, and we were more than happy to welcome Mary Biones to our volunteer staff. She is working on keeping our accession cards sorted, filed, and stored correctly.

Along with the Harris-Scheloske donations, came hundreds of family photographs which had to be catalogued and filed. Thanks to Jeri Kleppin and her many years of experience with our Photograph Collection, and her willing volunteers (Ruth Reeves and Irene Tallent) this task has been completed.

Thanks to our "Call and we'll come" policy for taking people through the museum, we have been able to guide numerous tours through. No one seemed to mind the lack of heat, and most of our guests were astonished at the depth and professional quality of our displays. This also stimulated a few more donations.

Looking forward to another year of fun, work, and good old museum dust

Dottie Emert, Volunteer

Allen & Tonya Capurro  
Marg Chipman  
Gladys Cox  
Roy & Norma Dickerson  
F. Lee & Dorine M. Eisenbarth  
Wayne & Margaret Fuller  
Carole Eakin Gallant  
Keith & Sandy Garoutte  
Joanne & Stuart Good  
Judy Guyer  
James & Judy Grunke  
Herb & Kelly Haun  
Pat Harberd  
Robert & Joyce Haverfield  
Wes Higgins  
Joseph & Margaret Hinson  
Carolyn Hussman  
E. Hope Jackson  
Gail V. Johnson (in Memoriam)  
Perry & Sally Kelly  
Lorene Kittams  
Dorlene Laird  
Lois Lee  
Roger & Whitney Lindquist

## 2020 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!

Mr. & Mrs. Gish Amano  
Dr. Brook & Denise Arkush  
Sally Baker  
Glendora Brown  
Donald & Marilyn Burris  
Tom & Donna Butterfield

Dale & Ginny Mammen  
Ella M. Maisch  
Wendy Martell  
Rick & Barb McDaniel  
Benny & Petra McDaniel

**SNAKE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER**  
Home of the Intermountain Institute Museum  
2295 Paddock Avenue  
P.O. Box 307  
Weiser, Idaho 83672



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Ken Walston  
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