

HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 10, 2011

2010 was a very rewarding and productive year for the Harrington Opera House Society. We realized major accomplishments in moving the building forward ever closer to completion and greater utilization of the facility.

Events at the Opera House

During 2010 the Harrington Opera House was once again filled with events that not only support the arts but our community as a whole.

On March 20, Jordan Wagner and Heather Yirak were joined in marriage in a ceremony that showcased the beauty and uniqueness of the Opera House and reflected the personalities of Jordan and Heather. It was the first wedding that anyone knows of in the Opera House

Two choirs, Bel Canto from Yakima and Tapestry women's choir from Pasco entertained a crowd with beautiful harmonies April 17. Former Harrington resident, Jane Beuchene, was part of the Tapestry group.

On April 19, Harrington School music teacher, Monte Swenson, brought grades 5 through 12 to the Opera House for a spring concert. A capacity crowd filled the auditorium.

Friday, May 21st, Lincoln County Economic Development Council members shared their communities' success stories at the gala evening in the Opera House.

On Sunday, June 20, the family of Carolyn Greer held a church service in the auditorium as part of their family reunion celebration.

Artist, Charlotte Schacher, held her 2nd annual art workshop June 25 and 26. It was well attended and participants had a chance to work with oil and acrylic paints.

On a warm August day and under the guidance of Carol Giles, the second annual "Dog Days of Summer" doggie wash was held with participation more than double last year.

During Fall Festival on Friday, September 24, author John Soennichsen presented a review of his book, Bretz's Flood and the Channeled Scablands. On Saturday, September 25, former resident, Kathy Thiemans Walker, held a book signing of her children's book, The Loving Family Tree. Many local residents and visitors had a chance to tour the Opera House and enjoyed a time to visit with old friends. Carol Giles and Amy Yirak opened the art room for a well-attended children's art activities program.

Harpist, Bronn Journey and his wife, Katherine, made a return engagement with a concert on October 14. All those in attendance were once again thrilled with the beautiful music of harp and voice.

December 11 found Santa Claus and his elf visiting the Opera House lobby, which was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. Pictures with Santa were taken by Karen Robertson and included all ages of children, families and even pets! The art room was open for children to have snacks and participate in craft projects. The day was a great success!

The grade school and high school band and choirs, under the direction of Marla Tappero, brought the music of the Christmas season to the Opera House in two separate concerts in December. The auditorium hosted a capacity crowd at each performance.

The year concluded with a going-away reception for long time community supporter and Opera House Society member, Wanda Buddrius. Many friends gathered for refreshments in the lobby for a chance to wish her well as she begins her new job in Pasco with Bank of the West.

As 2010 closes, we are looking forward to another exciting year of events and entertainment in the Opera House for 2011.

Event Promotion

All events were promoted by multimedia means. Posters were created by Karen Robertson for most public events and distributed in Harrington and surrounding towns. Paid advertising was submitted to various regional newspapers, ad papers, and some events were promoted in the *Inlander* magazine. The Lincoln County Economic Development Council helped with our advertising this year with funds from the Lincoln County Hotel Motel Tax. Several events were listed on KPBX Public Radio Community Announcements.

The Opera House website promoted all public events in advance and posted photos or mention of activities afterwards. A Face book presence was added in 2010 with a following quickly growing to 118 “friends”.

A general ad promoting the Harrington Opera House was placed in Davenport Theatrical’s program for “A Christmas Carol – the Musical” and mentioned as a supporter of the arts to the audience. Additionally several more comprehensive news releases were submitted to Lincoln County newspapers and the Ritzville Journal.

Usage Committee

The usage committee prepared and approved a contract that will be used by those wishing to rent space in the Opera House for events. The contract is strictly for use for events not being sponsored by the Opera House Society. The committee is completing an addendum document that will be used as a checklist as part of the usage contract.

Museum and Public Exposure

During the year we hosted four guided tours of the Opera House. In April Inland Empire Tours arrived with a busload and in July the Rockford Historical Society toured our facility. In August a group from the Spokane Corbin Senior Center and another group from Inland Empire Tours were given a guided tour of the Opera House. In September during the Harrington Fall Festival the building was open to the public for touring.

The Opera House Museum has steadily gained popularity through the year with the highest traffic during the Fall Festival and the day of the Lincoln Hospital Foundation annual luncheon held in Harrington. Many positive comments have been received including the amazement at the volume, quality and variety of the exhibits contained in such a small venue. We are continually accepting gifts and loans of historical interest for display. Unfortunately due to space limitations there are some offers of materials we are unable to accept.

This year we were fortunate to have the opportunity to purchase and return some of the original barbershop furniture and equipment to our display. The down side is that it was not cheap. We are actively seeking donations to help defray the expense for this great addition to our restoration.

Building Progress

The year started with the completion of the millwork for the main stairway to the auditorium in preparation for the plaster and drywall that was planned. Most of the year was taken up by projects that were required to get the building ready for the main project of sheeting and insulation. We completed the next phase of the electrical wiring to complete all the lighting required in the auditorium, lobby, office work area and secondary stairway.

A structural engineer was engaged to determine requirements for leveling and straightening the north wall of the auditorium and the south portion of the stage. This structural repair required new support footings in the basement and laminated posts and beams to support the raised walls and roof. When this was completed we let the contract for the sheetrock in the auditorium, north stairway, lobby, office ceilings and office walls. We were able to retain and duplicate all the original cove work of the ceilings.

Following completion of the drywall work we were able to complete the insulation of the auditorium ceiling and floor, the stairwell ceiling and the office area ceiling and walls to meet all current codes. We now have a facility that is useable in any season year around.

The final building project for the year was the completion of lobby and auditorium house lighting in November. This resulted in a recessed main street entry light and office light fixtures. New wall sconces around the auditorium walls, twenty recessed ceiling lights and six large crystal chandeliers over the auditorium were hung. All the auditorium lighting is controllable for brightness. Stage lighting remains temporary and will be included in the next phase of rehabilitation.

Harrington Woodworking is rebuilding the plasterwork surrounding the stage proscenium in preparation for reinstalling the cast plaster trim columns.

New TPO roofing material was installed in all the roof drainage areas along the parapet walls and catch basins relined and connected to the storm drains finally putting an end to the roof leaks.

A painting project was started to strip and refinish all the lower floor exterior woodwork resulting in most of the East and half of the South being completed before weather halted work.

Grants and Funding

In January, the Opera House received \$9,000 from the Lincoln County Economic Development Council .09% Sales Tax grant, for our wiring completion. Also in January, we received \$100 from

US Bank for the US Bank Employee 5 Star Award in honor of Wanda Buddrius, the local branch manager and strong supporter of the Opera House.

In June, \$18,000 was awarded to us from the Inland Northwest Community Foundation for the insulation and sheeting of the auditorium and the lobby.

US Bank presented us a check for \$3,500 also to be used for the completion of the wiring.

We have been accepted to receive a grant from the Building For The Arts, a Capital Projects grant from Washington State. The amount is for \$66,000 but funding depends on approval from the Governor and the legislature, and this has not been approved yet.

The late Doris Henderson bequeathed the Opera House \$3,380 from her estate and that was received in September.

Voting continues to go on for the Pepsi grant, which is a national grant presented to organizations across the country. Winners are nominated by votes and the highest votes win.

We are working with the USDA with the possibility of getting a grant for partial funding for the elevator, which will require about \$150,000.

Society Appreciation

Our endeavors were greatly assisted with commercial support by generous giving of time and materials to our various projects. We wish to give thanks and appreciation to the following supporters:

Duck Lake Farms, Harrington
Gropp Electric Inc, Spokane
Harrington Truck & Auto, Harrington
Harrington Woodworking, Harrington
Lake City Contractors LLC. Spokane
Lowe's Home Improvement Whs, Spokane
Moody's Drywall Inc, Colbert
Red Lion Hotels, Spokane
Richardson Construction, Davenport
Specialty Insulation Inc, Spokane
System Roofing Inc, Spokane

A special thanks also to all the individual members and supporters from the community that so willingly gives their time and efforts to bring this great building back to life.

Summary

We end 2010 enthused about our progress and accomplishments this year. It was an eventful year that showcased the commitment and teamwork of our dedicated group. We are looking forward to 2011 with excitement and conviction that this wonderful project will be bringing arts and entertainment to our community to enrich the lives of all it will touch.