



Harrington Opera House Society

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HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 11, 2010

2009 has been an extraordinary and busy year for Harrington's Historic Opera House, the Bank Block Building, & Society members.

The 2009 season offered 14 events of various types, with more than 800 people attending and generating more than \$17,500 for the Opera House. Five were musical events. Davenport Theatrical brought us "*Way off Broadway*". A spring performance by Harrington's school bands & chorus, & a winter band performance, were both lead by director Monte Swenson. Spokane's Pages of Harmony performed "*Broadway, Barbershop Style*". The Soda Creek 3 treated their audience to a wonderful evening of folk tunes, songs & humor.

Peter Davenport, Director of the National UFO Reporting Agency, gave two riveting presentations in February & October. Tours were hosted for the Rockford Historical Society, & for State Representative Cathy McMorris-Rogers. An Afternoon Tea was held in July featuring author/artist Nona Hengen.

This year also saw the opening of the new Art Room, located in the old handball court/dance studio on the south side of the building. Regional artist Charlette Schacher, taught a two day oil painting class in May. The gallery section of the Art Room was completed and an Open House in December featured a display of various artists' original oil paintings & prints for viewing/sale.

The first annual "Dog Days of Summer" Dog Wash & Yard Sale was added to our fundraising activities. Pictures with Santa & his Elf in the beautifully decorated Opera House lobby finished off this amazing year.

Harrington Opera House Society members and friends volunteered over 440 hours of labor and donated over \$8,718 in in-kind material for work on the building and event preparations.

Three grants were awarded to the society in 2009. We received \$2,500 from Avista Corporation and \$5,000 from US Bank. In December, 2009, the Lincoln County Commissioners awarded The Opera House a grant for \$9,000 for installation of lighting in the Opera House auditorium and stairways. Funding will be received in the first part of 2010.

We enjoyed the distinction of being featured in several publications this year. Articles appeared in Wheat Life, Inland NW Home and Lifestyles, The Inlander, Davenport Times, & Odessa Record. 2009 also saw the growth of our website: www.Harringtonoperahouse.org, maintained for us by society member, Karen Robertson of Robertson Arts & More.

While some performers charged a nominal fee, most donated their time & talent. In return, the Society donated the gate receipts from the school's winter performance to the Harrington School's musical program.

Considerable progress was made on several building renovation projects in 2009:

- ✓ The public bathroom floors were completed using donated tile from Mark Wetjen, purchased materials & donated labor from John & Debra Hendrickson of Hendrickson's Flooring.
- ✓ The auditorium walls were cleaned & painted using purchased paint.
- ✓ Basin Heating & Refrigeration installed the auditorium ventilation fans at their cost and members completed the wiring.
- ✓ Memorial plaques were finished and hung using purchased materials.
- ✓ Donated materials from Ray Harrington of Harrington Woodworking finished the banister posts.
- ✓ Alan Whitman and Washington Window & Door donated and installed the replacement window in the south wall of the lobby.
- ✓ Curtains were purchased for the auditorium windows enabling us to darken the auditorium for daytime performances and moderate room temperatures by blocking summer sun.
- ✓ Temporary lighting for the stage was installed using purchased and donated materials.
- ✓ The gallery in the art room was completed using donated & purchased material.

We end 2009, encouraged, heartened and inspired by both our progress and the passionate response from performers, society members, patrons and community. We look ahead to 2010 with excitement, renewed energy and conviction that this grand work truly touches lives, uplifts the spirit and makes a difference in all who come near.

Gordon Herron
President of the Harrington Opera House Society