

## **BONNEVILLE COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TEN INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES TO RECEIVE IDAHO HERITAGE HERO AWARDS**

IDAHO FALLS, ID--- The Bonneville County Heritage Association (BCHA) will host the second annual Idaho Day event March 4 at 7 pm at the Civic Auditorium in Idaho Falls. A silent auction and student contest entries will be on display from 5 to 6:30 pm. Narrator for this event will be Kelly Beckstead. Admission is free, and the public is invited.

Special recognition and information will be given by Idaho Falls author and historian, Connie Otteson about Emma Edwards, the first and only woman to design the Great Seal of a State, the Idaho State Seal. Also receiving recognition will be information about Territorial Governor, Edward A. Stevenson, an Idaho Hero that helped prevent the dismemberment of Idaho, given by Representative Linden Bateman.

The ten local individuals and businesses that will receive Idaho Heritage Hero Awards are as follows:

#### **RICHARD ADAMS**

Transporting supplies was dangerous due to the treacherous waters of the South Fork of the Snake River. State Coaches became a must. The Adams Stage Coach Line and the Newton Adams and Sam Hart Livery Stable were of great relief to many travelers, and played an important part in the name of Bonneville County.

#### **JOHNSON BROTHERS PLANING MILL INC.**

The Johnson Brothers, Robert, Oscar, Fred, Adolph, Ernest, Eno and Emil, -- and their sister, Alfreda came to Idaho Falls in 1905. Under the supervision of their father, the Johnson brothers formed a residential contracting business and purchased an existing mill. The Johnson family has been intimately involved in all 110 years of Johnson Brothers' history and the next generation is following in the footsteps of its ancestors.

#### **LA DEAN HARMSTON**

Spending much of her volunteer time, LaDean spends most of it as a volunteer in the Museum of Idaho's library and archives. She and her husband Larry helped build the Eagle Rock exhibits beginning in 1989. She has been volunteering her time as an unpaid volunteer for about 28 years.

#### **REPRESENTATIVE LINDEN BATEMAN**

Representative Bateman first served in the legislature from 1977-1986 and is now serving again in the legislature since 2010. It is because of his legislation last year, that established March 4 as Idaho Day to be celebrated throughout the State. He has been involved with local history since the early 1970s when a local group attempted to save four historic buildings where the city library now stands. The city agreed to give the old library for a museum to this group which has grown to become the Museum of Idaho.

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### **POST REGISTER**

Nearly 136 years ago, in about 1880, William E. Wheeler, the first editor of The Idaho Register in Blackfoot, later moved to Eagle Rock, is the founding publication of what is now the Post Register. Bill Hathaway, defined its history in his book he wrote several years ago. Mr. Wheeler was instrumental in the growth of Idaho Falls. J. Robb Brady continued it all in the early years, but died at age 44. E. F. McDermott was publisher for 50 years. The Youngest son of J. Robb Brady, also named J. Robb, succeeded McDermott, followed by Jerry Brady.

### **CHESBRO MUSIC COMPANY**

Henry Chesbro and his brother Harry opened a piano sales and service business in Seattle in 1897. After that business declined, he moved to St. Anthony, Idaho in 1911 and then to Idaho Falls in 1915. Since that time, 105 years in our community, this company now owned by the fourth generation of the Chesbro family, provides retail and wholesale music distribution in Idaho Falls and the United States.

### **IDAHO FALLS ROCKETTES**

The Idaho Falls Rockettes were the first fast-pitch girls' softball team in Idaho Falls, formed in 1946 with girls from around the area. Because there weren't any other girls' fast-pitch softball teams in the area, the Rockettes had to play against various mens' teams. They traveled to state and three regional tournaments and to invitational tournaments.

### **D. V. GROBERG COMPANY**

In 1929, we may not have had the Linden Park area, if it weren't for Delbert Groberg, and the D. V. Groberg Company. But that was only the beginning for this developer who built his business from scratch to support his wife and growing family. This is a family owned business still in existence today by the Groberg family. Delbert Groberg was a community leader.

### **IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY**

In 1949, the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission established an 890-square mile complex – what is now the Idaho National Laboratory site – west of Idaho Falls, with headquarters in Idaho Falls. It was established for the development of nuclear reactor technologies and spent fuel management. It has grown and diversified. Today, the Idaho National Lab is still pioneering new discoveries that help the nation and the world.

### **FARR CANDY COMPANY**

For 105 years, everything has been sweet at Farr Candy Company. Whether it's candy you want, or ice cream or frozen products, everything good happens at this family owned business.

The Idaho Day event will be educational and entertaining. Local author, Connie Otteson will present information about Emma Edwards, the first and only woman to design a great seal of a state. Representative Linden Bateman will provide information about territorial governor Edward A. Stevenson who helped prevent the dismemberment of Idaho. In order to get the youth involved, BCHA conducts student contests in senior and junior divisions open to all schools in the county. The winners of these division contests will receive cash awards presented at this event.

Three individuals will be receiving Idaho Heritage Achievement Awards. They are, author and volunteer Mary Jane Fritzen, Bill Rigby for the preservation of the O. E. Bell Building, and the Bonneville County Commissioners, Roger Christiansen, Lee Staker, and Dave Radford, for their continued preservation of the historic county courthouse.

Entertainment is also high on the list for enjoyment. The Idaho Old Time Fiddlers will be performing and about 100 choir students from the Westside and Erickson Elementary schools in District #91 will be performing. The student choir is under the direction of Idaho Falls School District #91 elementary music specialist, Jennifer Korenke-Stanger, with Bruce Stanger on guitar. The Bonneville County Sheriff's Office will present the colors with Sheriff Paul Wilde leading the pledge of allegiance.

In 2014, the Idaho Legislature established an Idaho Day to be commemorated annually on March 4, the date President Abraham Lincoln designated Idaho a state in 1863. Though not a legal holiday, Idaho Day is an annual celebration based on legislation authored by State Representative Linden Bateman, a member of BCHA, encouraging Idahoans to celebrate state heritage. Ann Rydalch is chair of the Bonneville County Heritage Association which hosts the Idaho Day events each year.

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