

WCHS Monthly Report June 2023

Depot report for June 2023

- Reimbursement of \$258,020 from the Heritage Capital Projects Grant has been deposited into the WCHS account.
- CMR has almost completed all the roofing work – only gutters left to do – they will be a half-round NP green metal gutter with round downspouts. CMR has submitted a second invoice, with 5% being withheld until all work is completed. The unique ridge trim and end pieces are really neat! Even the newly constructed dormers have special trim pieces.



- A proposal for contracting with Design West has been sent to WCHS for action. The Restoration Committee will be working with Design West to define bid specifications for window and door restoration as well as soffit needs. The goal will be to send bids out in August.
- Kathleen and Linda attended a required training session for the 28 recipients of the 2023-25 Heritage Capital Projects Grants. We expect to be completing all necessary submissions in June and prepare for a contract to be received in July. We have accounted for over 100% of our match (\$538,123), whereas 75% is required at this point.
- A request to apply for a grant for train repairs to the NP Railway Historical Association has been sent to WCHS for action.
- Work on the Palouse Pocket Prairie project, contracted to the Phoenix Conservancy, has begun. The adjacent property owner has signed the joint Memorandum of Understanding.
- John-Mark received a mockup of the train platform “drum” design lettering from McGregor Co. – awaiting proposal for full platform.
- The Events Committee is finalizing plans for Depot Days which runs concurrently with Pullman’s Lentil festival in August - theme is Agriculture on the Palouse – looking for machinery to display on site.
- The Marketing Committee is working on a 4-page brochure to be used by the Fundraising Committee as they meet with potential donors. A monthly newsletter is going to 308 recipients. They reported recent uptick in social media action for the last 90 days, citing

Facebook posts reached 8,100 (up 295.2%). A Daily News story on the historic tile roof also appeared in the Spokesman-Review.

- Discussions are underway to explore how to best utilize the original copper flashing which has been saved – a train sculpture for above the sign? a dormer feature?
- SignCrafters Sign Company, Lewiston, installed the new entry sign. It is awaiting the addition of new LED lights.



Lost Apple Project Committee report, June 18, 2023:

On 6-14-23, the Lost Apple Project issued a press release regarding the re-discovery of two previously lost apples. Front page news articles were run in the Spokesman Review, Moscow-Pullman Daily News, the Idaho Press, and other media outlets also ran the story. One apple was found near Riggins, Idaho, and the other just outside Moscow, Idaho.

An apple tree orchard still exists at the Polly Bemis Ranch, settled in August 13, 1894, by Charlie and Polly Bemis. Most of the trees in the Bemis orchard have been identified. However, two trees of the same variety were picked by the Lost Apple Project (LAP), examined by the Temperate Orchard Conservancy (TOC) in Oregon and later DNA tested by Washington State University (WSU). Neither identification method was able to reveal the name of the variety. because its fruit and its DNA did not match any other known variety. Rather than leave the apple nameless, the LAP and TOC, supported by the Historical Fruit Tree Working Group of North America, agreed to a provisional (temporary) name of the apple. The "Polly Bemis" (provisional) will be available to the public beginning in 2024.

Polly Bemis is a folk hero from the early history of Idaho. Bemis was born in China on September 11, 1853, and forcibly taken to the Idaho Territory at the age of 19. Her story has been the subject of books and film and her cabin on the upper Salmon River, in Idaho, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

Apple trees still exist in another orchard near Moscow, ID, that was likely planted by Daniel Gamble soon after he established a 160-acre homestead there in 1880. Like in the Bemis orchard, two identical trees, planted side-by side, could not be identified from fruit by the TOC or DNA testing by WSU. The apple has been given the provisional name of "Gamble Gold."

On June 11, 2023, Rebecca McGee became the LAP committee chairperson. McGee has been a member of the LAP and has an amazing resume in agriculture education. I

have attached her history to this report. I will still be very active in the committee.
Richard Uhlmann continues to lead the Boise branch of the LAP.
Dave Benscoter

Director's report:

Created marketing and ads for the Memorial Day celebration. Did marketing for the ice cream social and attended. The ice cream social had about 60 people in attendance. The Perkins Family really enjoyed the day. We gave out the Volunteer of the year award to Nancy Rothwell and Jim Fitzgerald. They were very surprised and grateful. The fashion show was wonderful. Hannah Strong does an amazing job of describing the vintage clothes and all of the models had fun. A big shout out to the volunteers who make the Perkins House yard look so beautiful. Ronda did a great job and pulled everything off even though she had been on a Washington DC trip the week before the event.

Report from the Archive, June 2023:

Open to Public, regular posted hours Wednesdays, 9:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Staff have been present throughout working the following:

Except Annette has taken time off to visit Spain,

Collating and cataloging donated collections and entering data into PastPerfect.

Notables:

WCHS Surplus Inventory: Dealing with selections of collection that has nothing to do with Whitman County or its people, or extra copies of Whitman County declared as "excess" to be deaccessioned and moved from collection. Completed setup of Surplus inventory form, and entered nearly 400 titles, with additional info has been accomplished by volunteer Zoe Holland of Uniontown, as a project for her online college course.

Palouse Magazine: has been digitized in .PDF Format. At this time, it exists as three large files, when "OCR" has been completed, will be available for use with electronic search available.

Dunns and Bradstreet: Whitman County towns from 1900 through 1924 (25 years) will be available to search through business listings by year and town. there are some late 1870 listings included. This all came from the Library of Congress and will be available soon for research or lookup use.

Accomplishing online requests, research, and responses, heavy this past month as well, seems to be more Genealogy than historical.

Whitman County Library, Rural Heritage's next grant for acquiring and posting photos isn't due until the end of this month (June). If Whitman County is awarded, projects will start October 1st, 2023 and complete by August 1, 2024.

Regards,
Alex

Trinity Chapel has neighbors across the street who have graciously volunteered to mow the lawn and keep an eye on the comings and goings around the church. A possible tour will be scheduled later in June or first part of July for a group from Spokane. Hopefully, will be able to include the museum when details are finalized.