



## 2020 REPORT

### OFFICERS:

Lee Heckart, Pres.  
 Jeff Juenemann, VP  
 Gloria Lutz, Sec.  
 Carolyn Christensen &  
 Phyllis Watson, Treas.

### TRUSTEES:

Ken Birky  
 Bob Biswell  
 Don Bowers  
 Jayne Detering  
 Ellis Dodd  
 Charlie Kizer  
 Les Layton

What a year! Let's not have any more like it... We were only able to have guests for a couple months. Later, when they allowed some guests, the rules and regulations were about three pages long and essentially impossible to fully abide by. It seemed best to stay closed down. But we made the best of the time by doing some updating and improving of the Museum. That is what we will feature in this report. (Not listed in any sort of order!)

I noted last year that we had replaced the gas fired space heater in the Pavilion. It works fine...is quieter and more efficient and is a legal installation! We discovered when installing the new one that the old one was an illegal installation. It had been there long enough that no one remembers how that happened but it is now done right!

That worked so well that we had a similar unit installed in the Big Morse



Space Heater

Building. We set the thermostats at about 40°. This keeps the ambient at a consistent level and the air drier than outside. Our machinery appreciates it! Going from warm to cold to warm results in condensation inside the works and that is not good. Another project is the renovation of the South Bedroom and the kitchen area of the 1867 McCartney House. The renovation was done by Ken Birky and son. Very nicely done with period flooring and walls. We did replace a couple of the windows in the bedroom with double pane vinyl frame windows. But the style is OK and one must inspect them

closely to detect that they are not 1867 windows. The



original ones were leaking and in bad shape. So a replacement was in order. If we ever get to open again I hope you will come check it out. We have not yet moved the furnishings back in place but that will happen soon. Jayne Detering and Don Bowers served as project managers. Pic at left shows (poorly) the wall paper. The small room to the right also leads to a very narrow stairs to the



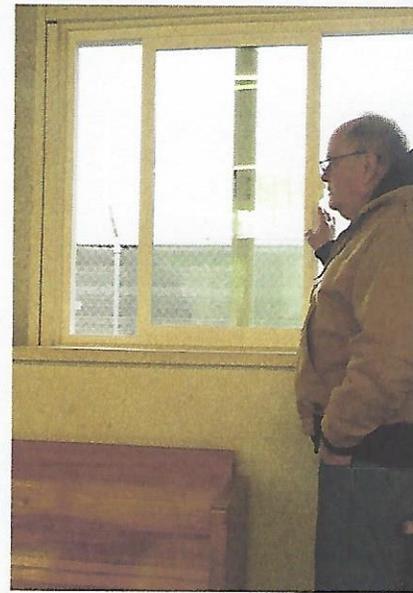
Pine Flooring with period nails

second floor. The stairs and second floor are 'off limits' due to government restrictions about handicapped access. So the second floor is just storage. Maybe next year when the furnishings have been returned I will show some more pictures. But once we are allowed to open you should come and see it. I think it will be of interest.

## HELP WANTED

If and when Gov. Brown lets us open up again, We will need some additional help in staffing the Museum for the scheduled three days per week. If you can spare some time, or know of someone who can, please contact Lee @ 541-995-8174. We will train you...it isn't difficult. You get to choose the days you are available. Please consider this opportunity...

We have upgraded the Pavilion with new windows in place of the old panels that could be opened for light and/or ventilation. Jeff Juenemann shopped around and obtained an excellent price for the installed windows. They are double pane and vinyl framed. You will like them, especially if you rent the Pavilion for some meeting. At left is a view of the North outside windows. At right is Jeff with the window partly open.

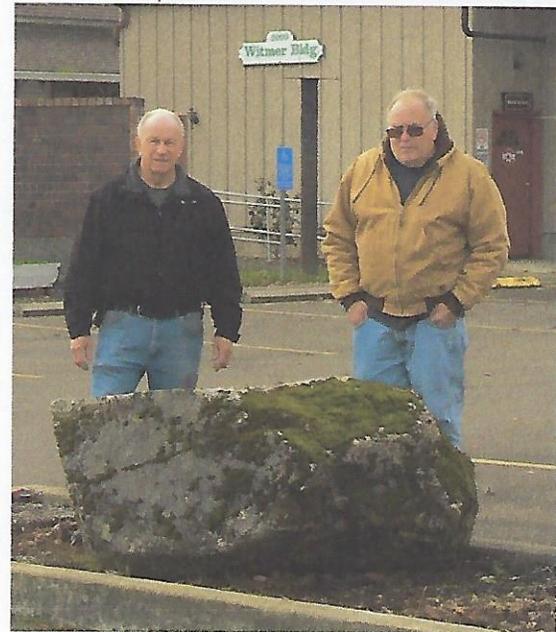


We have a couple of new exhibits. One is a Missoula Rock that Dean Bowers Estate contributed to the Museum. The story of the rock is pretty interesting. Enough so that I think I will use it as the subject of new "Focus Article" in the near future.

Speaking of such, let me encourage you to check out our web page. It is 5 pages long with quite a bit of info that I believe you will find interesting. The "updates" page lists two more

pages: "Focus", which has articles about Museum exhibits and "Reports" which shows previous articles similar to this one. There is more...just click around...it is "free!" Type this: <https://www.harrisburgareamuseum.org> into the address line of your browser.

Another new exhibit is a piece of the 1905 Southern Pacific bridge that spanned the Willamette River a bit South of Harrisburg. It was a pivot span where one section could be pivoted to parallel with the river to allow large vessels to pass. I understand that it was never pivoted because by 1905 the upper Willamette was barely navigable and the railroad had taken over much of the freight traffic. The splotchy look is due to paint coming loose. The back shows evidence of steam locomotives with a layer of soot still showing up! The Oregon Electric bridge was constructed about 1912 and was a 'draw bridge' with a span between two tall towers so that it could be raised to allow big vessels to pass. But by then the 'snag patrol' on the river had stopped maintaining the river bed and in 1923 the 'powers that be' declared that Harrisburg was the head of navigation on the Willamette. Read



more about it in Bessie Tweedts book, "Historic Harrisburg" which is available at the Museum office...if it is ever allowed to open!

Missoula Rock with Bob Biswell and Jeff Juenemann. It is big!



The Museum Board reports that it does not need further funds at this time. The City of Harrisburg is supposed to maintain the exterior of the buildings and some of the grounds, supply water and sewer service and share some to the cost of security services. It also shares a portion of the tax they collect for RV camping. The Bill & Lois Morse Foundation provided a large cash gift with significant additional from some of the Morse family. We do not have a current major renovation planned so we think our current cash position is adequate for the time being. But please don't forget us! When it becomes appropriate...or necessary...for us to hire a docent we will need cash again! You can be proud of the Harrisburg Area Museum. It is really outstanding for a town like Harrisburg. Come and visit and bring visitors as soon as we are allowed to open.

**RECALL THE PAST...IMAGINE THE FUTURE!**