

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
August 26, 2015  
"Final"

Dick opened the meeting at 10:10 AM. Those present were Susannah Nilsson, LoAnne Barnes, George Cannon, Elizabeth (Liz) Nepper, Edward Hafen, Dick Kohler, Pat Cundick, Patricia Hadley, Ron Cundick, Ian Crowe and Lynne Johnston. Elaine Tyler asked to be excused.

Dick welcomed Elizabeth (Liz) Nepper, who accepted a position as the Silver Reef Museum Manager.

Dick asked everyone to introduce themselves and if they wanted could mention some of their summer activities.

**MINUTES – Lynne Johnston**

- Lynne mentioned the Minutes dated May 27, 2015, could not be approved because she needed to clarify the information about the Virgin Historical Bridge.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Elaine Tyler**

- Elaine asked to be excused. There was no report.

**LEEDS – LoAnne Barnes**

- Wild West Days will be Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12, 2015
- History on the Buffalo
- Wild West Shootout at 12:00 Noon
- Family tours, games, food and activities at the Town Square

**SILVER REEF MUSEUM – SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBIT – Pat and Ron Cundick**

- The Silver Reef Museum has agreed to host the "Traveling Smithsonian Exhibit" in 2017
- It will be one of five places in Utah to have the Exhibit
- The initial visit was made by a representative from the Smithsonian Museum
- Would need to use the Cosmopolitan Building when the Exhibit arrives

**SILVER REEF MUSEUM GHOST NIGHT – LoAnne Barnes**

- Ghost Night will be held again on October 24 and October 31, 2015
- Ghost Night has proved to be a great success
- Suggestions - film some of the Actors telling their stories
- Have different histories told – not all the same histories each year

## **ESCALANTE OIL WELL EXPLOSION DOCUMENTARY – Ed Hafen**

- Happy with the progress that has been made
- Kelton and Ed are just about done with the interviewing of descendants of those killed in the explosion
- They are going to Salt Lake and Provo to talk to a few people
- They have made arrangements to interview a man who was eight years old when the explosion happened – he remembers seeing it happen
- Kelton has written a very good description of the event – his son Lyman has helped
- They asked Dick Kohler to write up a summary of what he believes the circumstances were at the Oil Well
- Ed asked if anyone had old photos (1930's preferably) of the St. George area
- It was suggested they contact Loren Webb – his mother Doris Webb had quite a collection of old photos
- George mentioned that any photos they find, it would be a good idea to post them on the WCHS website
- Another suggestion was to ask Amber D'Ambrosio, Special Collections, at Dixie State University for any information, pictures, etc.
- They are looking for a Narrator and the music to go along with the story

## **SUGGESTION FOR A MONUMENT AT THE SITE OF THE ESCALANTE OIL WELL**

- George passed on a suggestion from Kisa Smith and one other descendant of the explosion victims that there be a plaque or memorial at the site of the explosion
- Kisa had contacted SITLA who owns the land and they explained the process for requesting permission
- They gave Kisa forms to fill out and she forwarded them to George
- LoAnne mentioned the Marker could cost \$1000 to \$2500
- Ask Susan Crook to look at the forms

## **SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP – Susannah Nilsson**

- Will be on September 19, 2015 – in Toquerville – a story about Richard Fryer – the murder of his wife and child – and the neighbor Thomas Batty
- Meet at the BLM office on Riverside Dr. at 9:00 AM and those who live in Toquerville area meet at the LDS Church parking lot at 9:30 AM
- Susannah will tell the story about Richard Fryer – he was a man of culture and refinement
- The home was used as the Presbyterian Mission.
- One of the five well preserved exposed stone buildings still left in Toquerville
- If time permits they will visit some of the other historical buildings and sites in Toquerville
- Dick will call Carol Christensen to let her know about the field trip

### **MAYOR WALKS – Dick Kohler**

- Dick mentioned that the first “Mayor Walk” will be at Enterprise on September 29, 2015

### **SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM – Dick Kohler**

- Dick was in Washington D.C. this summer and enjoyed his visit to the Smithsonian Museum
- While he was there he talked to a Docent about the Artifacts they have there from the Silver Reef area
- One Artifact that was in the Paris Exhibition – in that Artifact, the impression of leaves are from the silver – it looks like petrified trees or plants
- Dick was told that the item could be indexed or it may not be indexed
- Would Dr. Schuyler be able to find that Artifact
- Liz Nepper said she might know someone at the Smithsonian who could do a little research

### **DOCUTAH – Dick Kohler**

- September 8-11, 2015, to be held at various venues – 77 different Documentaries will be shown
- Dick suggested that everyone attend the free Seminars which will be held September 8-11, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM – at the Eccles Theatre at Dixie State University
- The producers of the Documentaries will discuss their films and ideas on how they got the funding to make them
- You can watch the “Trailers” on DocUtah.com

### **REGISTER THE WCHS WEBSITE – George Cannon**

- George described a scam by a Chinese company threatening to register website addresses using the WCHSUTAH name (eg. <http://wchsutah.xxx>) so that people who aren't paying attention may be diverted to a malicious website
- The most probable mistake would be for people to think <http://wchsutah.com> was our address
- After talking the problem over with Elaine we recommend that we register the .com name and have it “mirror” our website so that when people go to the <http://wchsutah.com> they will actually go to our <http://wchsutah.org>
- It would cost \$15.00 per year to register the name and a one-time cost of \$30.00 to set up the mirroring
- LoAnne Barnes made a Motion and Pat Cundick seconded the Motion to register the name – wchsutah.com, and “mirror” it to our website wchsutah.org. All of those present said “Aye”. The Motion was approved. The cost was \$15.00 – also included in the Motion and approved by those present.

### **COLLEAGUES OF DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY – Dick Kohler**

- Dick will be the Guest Speaker on Monday, October 5, 2015 from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM
- The meeting will be held at the Taylor Health Center – 1526 Medical Center Dr. – Room 156, the first floor
- He will speak on the early homes here in St. George and his book “A Little Piece of Zion: The St. George Town Lot”

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST – LoAnne Barnes**

- LoAnne asked if anyone knew anything about Karen Platt
- Dick said he had tried calling, but the number he had was disconnected

### **RAP TAX – Dick Kohler**

- Dick is on the RAP Tax Board
- The RAP Tax Board accepts the Applications and reviews them – then submits their suggestions to the Washington County Commissioners for approval of disbursements from the funds
- 15% of approximately \$300,000 will be available to Cultural Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations (must submit a copy of the IRS letter of determination of 501(c)(3) status)
- RAP funds may be requested for either operating expenses or capital projects – standalone projects or supplements to the Organization’s annual operating budget
- Website for the Application is <https://secure.washco.utah.gov/rap/>
- Deadline for submission of the Application is September 25, 2015 – remember to click “Go”
- Zion Canyon and Tuacahan are the two groups that generate the most tax revenue
- Dick would like to see smaller groups/organizations receive money from the RAP Tax – not give all the funds to larger groups/organizations
- Leeds Town could apply for Historic Restoration grants to RAP Tax Board and in turn could give the money to Silver Reef Museum
- Can not be used for private groups (such as the Tithing house in Leeds)
- WCHS could be an “umbrella group” for an organization that does not have a 501(c)(3) status – such as the DUP Museum in Enterprise
- Contact Cheyenne Bentley, Deputy County Clerk, if you have questions about the Application – (435) 986-3349

### **ELECTRIC THEATRE GRAND OPENING – Dick Kohler**

- The open house for the Electric Theatre will be Friday – September 28 and Saturday September 29
- St. George Live docents and actors along with the WCHS Board were asked to be tour guides

## **WCHS WEBSITE – George Cannon**

- In response to the question about what people did during their summer, George responded that “he worked on the WCHS website”
- Dick guessed that there were about 1,000 new subject pages and George said that was probably right
- George pointed out that on the left side of each webpage there is a “Page Feedback” link to a form where people can easily supply corrections or additional information for that webpage
- George appreciates all additions and corrections as that gradually makes the website better and more useful
- Comments along with photos or other documents can also be sent to [webmaster@wchsutah.org](mailto:webmaster@wchsutah.org)
- Dick mentioned that the WCHS Website is one of the best sources for information about Southern Utah History
- George said he hoped that this year we could get more exposure for the website so that people know it is there and can make use of it and also so that they may contribute additional information
- George passed on Susan Crook’s request for information on the Rolling Hills Circle water tank – see <http://wchsutah.org/rhc-water-tank.php>
- George passed on Loren Webb’s suggestion for getting Suzanne Dalitz (daughter of mobster, Moe Dalitz) as a speaker to talk about the DI Ranch – see <http://wchsutah.org/homes/di-ranch.php>

Respectfully Submitted  
Lynne Johnston