

Idaho P.E.O.

Chapter House Newsletter

Our goal is to share, educate, enlighten, and welcome each of you to our Idaho treasure, The Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House.



MARCH 2021

Chapter House Property

Perhaps you noticed the picture of the smaller home beside the Chapter House mansion in our February newsletter. This two-story frame house was the first home of the Henry Dorman family. They lived there as the mansion was being constructed. When the mansion was purchased and remodeled as a hospital (the Sanitarium), this house was converted to the nurses' dormitory.

Love Miller Smith, Chapter F, was secretary for the doctors for many years. It was she who presented the idea of a Chapter House (*a benevolent, charitable, fraternal, loving, caring home for older P.E.O. sisters*) to our sisterhood. She started the Chapter House fund by giving the first \$100.00 at our State Convention in 1936. And Love Miller Smith was the first manager of the Chapter House when it opened in May 1951.

When the mansion and nurses quarters were donated to our Idaho State Chapter, Love Miller Smith, at her own expense, remodeled this house into a miniature model of the main residence. She lived there until her passing.

In 1966, due to the cost of necessary structural repairs and because its appearance did not conform to the newer cottages which had been added to the grounds, this edifice (*family home, nurses dormitory, L.M. Smith residence*) was sold and moved.

(Picture of mansion and first home) We included it in February newsletter, but it seems appropriate to add it here. Plus the picture of Love Miller Smith and a second picture of the Dorman's first home.



First home of the Henry Dorman family - where they lived while the Chapter House was being built.



Love Miller Smith, Chapter F donated the first \$100 in 1936 to the Chapter House Fund.



The Cottages

In 1954 the strip of land adjoining the Chapter House property on the south and extending to Pine Street, was purchased so that now our property is bordered by Pine Street on the south, Logan Street on the north, Kimball Street on the West and the lot line bordering to the East near the hospital parking lot. This additional property provided space for new buildings. From 1955 to 1989 five brick cottages and a duplex were constructed on the Chapter House grounds.

Amy Mitchell built a one-bedroom cottage, northwest of the Chapter House, facing the circular driveway. Present resident is Pat. The second building was a duplex, built south of Love Miller Smith's home. It was later remodeled to form a triplex. Current occupants are Jackie, Ann, and Sue.

In 1958 the first two-bedroom cottage was built on the new strip of property. Margaret is the current resident. The same year another two-bedroom unit was constructed on the newly purchased property. This is the home of Melvina. North of this cottage is another two-bedroom unit, home to Edith. The final cottage was another two-bedroom unit where Katie now lives.

As Helen Gale wrote in her 1986 history of the Chapter House:

“No medical facilities are furnished, as ours is not a nursing home, but rather a comfortable, beautifully furnished home (plus cottages) where our sisters can enjoy a sense of togetherness, as well as gracious living in their later years. If you have not seen the Idaho Chapter House - you must. Do plan to see and use this beautiful Idaho Chapter House - you will love it and be proud to be a loving contributor to its support.”



Openings on Chapter House Board

You are not too late! And you are so needed!

This spring there are going to be four openings on our Chapter House Board. Serving on this board will introduce you to new sisters - fellow board members and residents. You are invited to share your time, ideas, and talents.

Please contact the Chapter House (208)459-3552.

Ask for Jennifer, Chapter House manager, for more information and an application form.

**In serving, of course you will be giving,
but you will gain so much more.**

Welcome to our "club"!!



Mardi Gras

Some of the ladies enjoyed a touch of Mardi Gras tradition and fun with colorful masks and a King's cake complete with a hidden baby!

The baby, found by Ann, symbolizes luck and prosperity to whomever finds it.



Irish Cultural Traditions, Customs, And Their Origins . . . just for fun

Ireland boasts a characterful culture, full of unique traditions, customs, and origins so synonymous with the Emerald Isle. From Irish dancing to a love for potatoes, here are the most celebrated quirks of Irish culture.



Annual Hike to Croagh Patrick: Every year, thousands of people make the arduous, yet pious, journey to the peak of Croagh Patrick. This mountain climb, which is in honour of Ireland's patron, Saint Patrick, takes place annually on the last Sunday of July. As per Celtic history, the ancient Irish druids would make this pilgrimage each year to mark the pagan festival of Lughnasadh. Today, this remains a vital part of Irish culture.

Potatoes: Although the potato was imported in the 17th century, it is a symbol of Ireland and its undisputed hospitality. In addition to this, it has been considered the unofficial mascot of the Irish food scene throughout history. This is mostly due to its role during the Great Famine in Ireland (1845 to 1849) when the potato crop failed, leading to widespread plight and mass immigration.

Irish Dancing: Irish dancing is an age-old art form. Jigs, reels, step dancing, and ceili dances all make up this inherently Irish dance style, and its unique form and fashion are known worldwide today. It's truly one of the top Irish traditions.

Guinness & Pub Culture: Pub culture is one of the country's defining customs and characteristics. Some of the most authentic local experiences can be had in an Irish pub. Guinness plays a lead role in the pub scene and is one of the top undisputed Irish customs in itself.

Puck Fair: The Puck Fair claims to be one of Ireland's oldest festivals and is definitely one of its most fascinating. Also taking place in County Kerry, the fair can be traced back as far as 1603, and scholars suggest it may have originated as a celebration of the Celtic festival of Lughnasa. It involves the capture of a wild goat from the mountains, which is then brought to the town square and crowned 'King Puck' by a local schoolgirl. After three days of being worshipped, the goat is returned to his home unharmed.

Contact Us:

We invite you to submit your stories, experiences and testimonials so that we can spread the word about the Chapter House. Email to idpeoch@gmail.com, with your questions or comments. Thank you.

Chapter House Newsletter Team

- Mary Buchanan, H
- Judy Grunke, T
- Sharon Hubler, BT
- Jacque Scott, AU
- Jennifer Kerr, N



<http://peochapterhouseidaho.org>