



*“The History and Preservation People”*

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Ellen Haffner/208-334-3863

Troy Reeves/208-334-3863

E-mail: [Ellen.Haffner@ishs.idaho.gov](mailto:Ellen.Haffner@ishs.idaho.gov)

[Troy.Reeves@ishs.idaho.gov](mailto:Troy.Reeves@ishs.idaho.gov)

### **Capitol Oral History Project continues this summer; stories still wanted**

BOISE — The Oral History Center at the Idaho State Historical Society is one year into its effort to gather remembrances of those who have worked in or visited the Idaho State Capitol Building during its 100 year history and is renewing its effort to seek additional participants in the project.

On July 11, 2005, the IOHC launched the Capitol Oral History Project in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the beginning of construction on the Idaho Statehouse in 1905. The goal has been to collect memories of individuals who worked in the building or were involved in special activities related to state government that related to the building.

“We are interested in gathering information from anyone be it a past or present state legislator, a state employee, or a member of the general public who might have a story to tell about the edifice or events that took place at the site,” said Troy Reeves, Oral Historian with the Idaho State Historical Society.

Since the proposal was first funded by the Idaho Capitol Commission just prior to the centennial celebration, the IOHC has coordinated the gathering of interviews and written material from several dozen Idahoans. Much of the work being done has been handled by students of RiverStone Community School in Boise as a special learning project.

Reeves said the Center hopes to continue expanding the number of stories gathered and preserved by gathering information in a variety of formats that go beyond the present collection of oral interviews and written material to include emails, letters and home video.

“This is an opportunity for anyone with a recollection about the Idaho Capitol Building to contribute to the documentation of its history,” Reeves said. “We are particularly interested in hearing from people who live outside Southwestern Idaho in an effort to gather a statewide perspective from those who traveled to Boise and can express the meaning of that experience.”

The project will continue throughout 2006 with the collection of material to become accessible in the archives of the Idaho State Historical Society. Some of the material will likely be used in development of a book on the history of the Idaho Statehouse that is expected to be produced in conjunction with the upcoming restoration of the Statehouse.

Reeves said contributions to the project can be made in various ways including:

- **Writing a letter**: An individual can just jot down some of their favorite personal stories and send them to Capitol Oral History Project, 2205 Old Penitentiary Rd., Boise, ID 83712-8250. They should include their name and mailing address somewhere on the submission.
- **Emailing memories**: An individual can send stories electronically to Reeves at <[troy.reeves@ishs.idaho.gov](mailto:troy.reeves@ishs.idaho.gov)>. Again, they should identify themselves with name and mailing address somewhere inside the email.
- **Being interviewed**: If an individual wants their voice and image to be included as part of the project, the IOHC will schedule a personal interview. Arrangements can be made by contacting the Center at 208-334-3863 or by sending an e-mail to <[troy.reeves@ishs.idaho.gov](mailto:troy.reeves@ishs.idaho.gov)> (The Center would prefer to interview those with lengthier ties to the building due to the logistics involved, but will also conduct phone interviews with people outside of Southwest Idaho).
- **Referring others**: Don't hesitate to pass on names of people with strong ties to the building that might provide a good interview or written submission. The IOHC will pursue any suggestion that might lead to a contribution to the project.

The Idaho Oral History Center operates within the Public Archives and Research Library Division of the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS), an agency of state government with a goal of protecting the cultural heritage of Idaho. The ISHS seeks to preserve historic and prehistoric resources and provides access to documents, artifacts, sites, and information of historic significance for the benefit and appreciation of the public. The agency carries out its responsibilities through education programs, technical assistance, development of publications and exhibits, and by encouraging local, state and regional entities to preserve history. Learn more about the Society at [www.idahohistory.net](http://www.idahohistory.net) .

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