



## *“The History and Preservation People”*

# NEWS RELEASE

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### **Historical Society Announces New Statehouse Restoration Duties**

BOISE – Extensive preparation work related to the major renovation and expansion project beginning at the Idaho State Capitol Building has resulted in an adjustment in job responsibilities at the Idaho State Historical Society.

Ken Swanson, administrator of the Idaho Historical Museum and the Historic Sites Division of the ISHS, has been named Special Project Manager and will coordinate curation of artifacts that must be cataloged, moved, processed, stored, and returned to the Statehouse as part of the anticipated three year project.

“Appropriate handling of the thousands of historic objects currently found throughout the building will be a critical undertaking on behalf of the citizens of Idaho,” said Steve Guerber, Executive Director of the agency, in making the announcement. “Ken’s reputation and experience dealing with special projects like this make him an appropriate choice to move into this very important and challenging responsibility.”

The ISHS will not only be accountable for removal and care of historic and many other artifacts, but for the many records and historic documents of significance that are currently in the building. Those items will also be removed, processed, and stored during the period of construction, as well as returned to the building as appropriate at the end of the restoration project. Linda Morton-Keithley, administrator of the Public Archives and Research Library Division of the ISHS, will coordinate that aspect of the move.

As a result of Swanson’s assignment to his new duties at the Capitol Building and his relocation to an office in the Statehouse, Jody Hawley Ochoa will assume responsibility for the ongoing daily operation of the Idaho Historical Museum in the position of Museum Manager.

In addition, Milan Kovach will assume duties as Historic Sites Manager and will be fully responsible for the ongoing daily operation of the agency’s historic sites (which includes oversight of the Old Penitentiary Historic District in Boise, Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite near Hansen, four historic buildings at Franklin, and the Historic Courthouse at Pierce). Kovach will also continue to coordinate maintenance duties in Boise on the Idaho History Center, the 1872 U.S. Assay Office, and the historic Bureau of Reclamation Building on Broadway Avenue recently transferred to ownership of the ISHS.

The Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) is 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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