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A Quarterly Newsletter, Summer 2020

Winona History Center Happenings



Enjoying Rodeheaver's Legacy

The rich legacy of hymns and gospel songs produced by Homer Rodeheaver is celebrated in a recently posted livestream on the Winona History Center Facebook page.

Dr. Terry White, who serves as a docent in the History Center, shares in the 56-minute program a brief overview of Homer Rodeheaver's life and ministry, as well as the background and "back story" of a dozen or more of the songs Rodeheaver owned and published through Rodeheaver Hall-Mack Music Company.

Rodeheaver, who spent 20 years as the platform manager, music director, and songleader for Billy Sunday's evangelistic campaigns, formed the publishing company which ultimately became the largest gospel music publisher in the U.S. He published some 6,000 hymns and gospel songs, and nearly all hymnbooks produced

in the 1900s would have a hundred or more Rodeheaver songs included.

The archived livestream, accessible [here](#), showcases some of Rodeheaver's most cherished and most profitable hymns, including "The Old Rugged Cross," "In the Garden," and "Beyond the Sunset." Others in the program include "Make Me a Blessing," "Wonderful Grace of Jesus," "Sweeter as the Years Go By," "No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus," and many more.

The livestream is from the sanctuary of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Winona Lake (formerly known as Winona Lake Presbyterian Church), the home church of Billy and Ma Sunday, of organist Kathrine Carmichael, and others.



*Dr. Terry White performs
several Rodeheaver
songs in the Winona
Lake Church of the Good
Shepherd.*

Did you know...

- that the Winona History Center Facebook page received its most interaction ever on a post from March 13? It reached over 27,000 people and had over 250 shares. See Page 2 for more information on this post.
- that the Winona History Center keeps active [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts? Since the Winona History Center closed temporarily on March 14 because of covid-19, likes and followers on the Facebook page have increased by approximately 50%.
- that the Winona History Center always welcomes new volunteers? If you are interested, we could use volunteers as docents, for landscaping, and for maintenance projects.
- that the Winona History Center has been closed to visitors since March 14 because of covid-19? Since then, we have answered phone calls, researched questions, and posted on social media from home. We plan to re-open later this summer; call or email before coming to find out the hours.

Winona Lake Experienced a Previous Pandemic

(The following article was published on March 13, 2020, on the Winona History Center's Facebook page. Since then, the post has reached almost 28,000 people and has had over 250 shares – far more than any previous post on the page.)

While the current coronavirus situation is unprecedented in our generation, Winona Lake actually experienced a similar scenario a little over one hundred years ago. In 1918, Indiana schools, churches, and public events were canceled for most of the month of October and into November because of influenza.

At the time, Winona Lake was briefly home to a training camp for soldiers preparing to drive trucks in World War I. The camp was located in front of what is currently the Winona Heritage Room on Park Avenue in Winona Lake. Men were

housed in the Winona and Westminster hotels and in The Inn, a facility (no longer extant) in the 1000 block of Park Avenue. The Mount Memorial building was used as the company headquarters.

When soldiers began falling ill toward the end of October 1918, the Marshall Home, once located in the 1100 block of Park Ave., and the Otterbein (present site of the Free Methodist Church) were used as the camp's hospitals. Warsaw's McDonald Hospital was utilized for the most seriously ill soldiers. Camp Winona was quarantined, with soldiers limited on when they could leave the camp; guards were posted to ask people why they were entering or leaving.

The camp was active from August of 1918 until the war ended on November 11, 1918. At that point the soldiers were transferred to Indianapolis. There is no

monument today in Winona Lake marking the camp's existence.



The Otterbein (top) and the Marshall Home (bottom) were both used to house ill soldiers in Winona Lake during the 1918 pandemic.

Your Support Welcomed

The mission of the Winona History Center and Billy Sunday Home is "to foster educational and scholarly interest in Winona's heritage through the preservation and exhibition of historical collections and by inspiring a new generation to discover the treasures of American history."

The Winona History Center and Billy Sunday Home closed on March 14 because of covid-19. Since we have not had any physical visitors during the last two and a half months (including the

canceling of all school groups), our donations have been affected. We welcome donations at our website [here](#).

While we have been closed, we have kept in contact with many of you via social media posts and emails. Your interaction in these forums has been invaluable. We always appreciate ideas from our friends regarding future topics for research and postings.

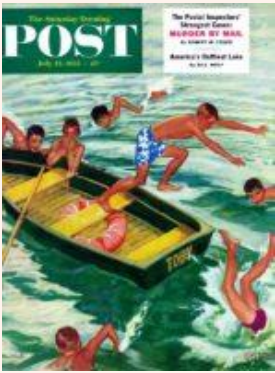
Beyond the current needs, funding is needed for future goals, including

making the History Center more interactive and "kid-friendly," developing new exhibits covering Winona Lake History in the last twenty-five years, physical repairs to existing exhibits and the Sunday Home, and digitizing more of our audio and photo resources.

We are currently hoping to re-open later in the summer, but a specific date is not known yet. Thank you for your support through this time!

Winona Lake Hits the Magazines

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, Winona Lake and its notable people were common topics for popular national magazines. The Winona History Center has recently made a display including several of these magazines.



On July 12, 1952, the cover of "The Saturday Evening Post" included a picture of boys jumping from a rowboat into a lake. Inside the periodical, the description of the picture reads in part, "Mead Schaeffer [the artist] explains that Bill Waterwings, the nonswimmer is back on the dock, trying to make himself jump into the awful stuff lapping at his feet. Very sympathetic is Schaeffer, for once he was like Bill – until one day he slipped on the water-slick dock and found himself submerged in Winona Lake, Indiana."

Mead Schaeffer, who was known for his realistic paintings, illustrated for "The Saturday Evening Post" from 1942 through 1953. He titled this illustration "Winona Lake, Indiana."

Another popular women's magazine, "Cosmopolitan," featured Homer Rodeheaver as the Cosmopolite of the Month in 1938. Page 8 features Rodeheaver in a picture where he is holding his iconic trombone. The article, written by Dorothy Giles, describes Homer Rodeheaver leading a sunrise service on Easter morning and credits him for being the innovator of these special services. Calling him "the man who has taught American to sing," the article further describes a hymn sing led by Rodeheaver at the opening of an auditorium in Atlantic City. "The auditorium," Giles says, "advertised to hold forty-two thousand persons, was jammed to the doors. Outside, for half a mile in either direction, the boardwalk was a solid mass of listeners to the loud-speakers."



A third magazine in the display is "Newsweek" from November 27, 1950. This publication has an article titled "Ma' Sunday at 82." The article, which is accompanied by a picture of Helen Sunday with Billy Graham, describes what she had done since the death of her husband



famed evangelist Billy Sunday in 1935. "The Lord has kept me busy," the article quotes Ma saying. "I am so thankful to have His little errands to do here and there." The errands described in the article include traveling to Quito, Ecuador, with HCJB radio and helping Billy Graham in his Atlanta revival.



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(If you would like to be added to the email list for future editions of this newsletter, please send your email address to winonamuseum@grace.edu.)

HOURS

Currently closed. When we re-open, regular hours are:

Sunday – Closed
Monday – Closed
Tuesday – 2:00-5:00
Wednesday – 2:00-5:00
Thursday – 2:00-5:00
Friday – 2:00-5:00
Saturday – 2:00-5:00

VISIT US

Winona History Center
Westminster Hall
105 9th Street
Winona Lake, IN 46590

