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A Quarterly Newsletter, Summer 2024

Winona History Center Happenings

June Brings Special Events to WHC

During June, the Winona History Center and Billy Sunday Home hosted two events. The first, on Friday, June 21, was part of the “Revive Us Again” all-day revival meeting held at the Rodeheaver Auditorium. Featured speakers were Monte Watts, Caleb Garraway, Abdel Judeh, and Shannon Foote in the event sponsored by the Grace Bible Baptist Church.

Over 130 visitors made their way up the hill to the Billy Sunday Home to tour the home and participate in the two prayer meetings the group held on the front porch. Between 30 and 40 of the participants also visited the Winona History Center. Many of the guests were fascinated by the artifacts in the Billy Sunday Home, and several expressed interest in setting up field trips.

The second event was on June 29, during Winona Lake’s Independence Day celebration. For the second year, people came at 5:00 to watch the Park Avenue Fourth of July parade from the front porch of the Billy Sunday Home. They headed inside then for tours of the home. Unfortunately, heavy rain kept more visitors from coming.

Volunteer Julie Parke made cookies to hand out from Ma Sunday’s recipe, and other Sunday-era refreshments were available on the front porch. Visitors could take with them a copy of Ma’s recipe for oatmeal raisin cookies. Reading materials from the Winona History Center were available for browsing while patriotic music played in the background.



(Above) One group of visitors with the “Revive Us Again” group pauses for a picture on the porch of the Billy Sunday Home. (Above) Several Winona Lake residents watch the Independence Day parade from the porch of the Billy Sunday Home. See Page 2 for more pictures of these events.

Winona History Center Welcomes a New Coordinator

The Winona History Center and Billy Sunday Home are pleased to welcome Cheryce Wise as the new Coordinator. Wise began her position in March, although she had been associated with the History Center previously.

Cheryce Wise graduated from Grace College with a degree in history and a minor in museum studies. "During one of the classes needed for the museum studies minor, it was brought to my attention that the History Center was interested in student workers," Wise says. "I worked for the History Center for two years as a student, and after I graduated, I continued volunteering."

Upon finding out about the open position, Wise was immedi-

ately interested. She says, "I am passionate about connecting people with history, and this seemed like a great opportunity to use my past experience in a new way."

Wise adds that her new position is very rewarding. "Being able to do more behind the scenes has been fascinating," she says, "and I have so much respect for all the hard work those before me put into the History Center." So far, her favorite experiences have been talking to the visitors who have so many stories to tell about their family history or about the local history – including those people who knew Ma Sunday.

In the future, Wise hopes to increase interaction with the

students at Grace College and has been working on planning events specifically for and with them. Other goals include the continuous improvements of the museums' spaces and looking for ways to connect with the community and visitors.



Winona History Center Coordinator Cheryce Wise relaxes in nature, another of her favorite pastimes.



(Left) "Revive Us Again" participants tour the Billy Sunday Home. (Right) Visitors watch the Winona Lake Independence Day parade from the Sunday Home front porch while enjoying refreshments.

Did you know...

- that on April 13, the Winona History Center gave tours to several visitors who were in town for the conference with syndicated radio host Brent Hansen?
- that the Winona History Center keeps an updated Facebook page? A recent popular post was on air-conditioned buildings in mid-century Winona. You can check it out [here](#).
- that researchers regularly come to the Winona History Center? Recently researched topics have been Shakespeare in Winona and Billy Sunday's Trenton, New Jersey, campaign.

Book Review: *Twenty Years with Billy Sunday*

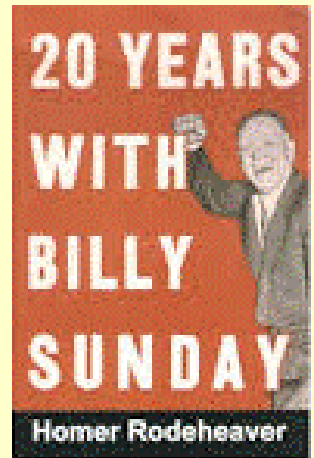
One of the books that the Winona History Center has available for its guests to flip through in the museum or to take home for a donation is *Twenty Years with Billy Sunday* by Homer Rodeheaver. Published in 1936, the book tells of Homer Rodeheaver's years traveling as Billy Sunday's song leader from approximately 1910 to 1930.

The book begins with a chapter describing Billy Sunday, saying, "Of his outstanding characteristics first place must be given his unreserved consecration to the task of preaching the gospel...." Rodeheaver then details Sunday's other characteristics that made him a strong leader, such as neatness and physical well-being.

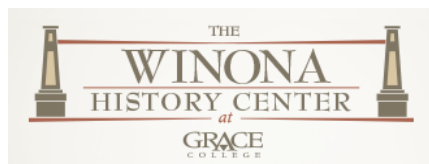
Other chapters include topics such as Sunday's sermons, campaign organization, his finances, and of

course his tabernacle music, since that was the part Rodeheaver related to most closely. Sunday and Rodeheaver did not always get along well, and although Rodeheaver hints at that slightly, he does not go into any detail. The book was published soon after Sunday's death and was intended to present him positively to the public from someone who knew him well.

The final chapter details Sunday's last days, starting with his final preaching service in October of 1935 in Mishawaka, Indiana, in which he filled in for Rodeheaver. While the book is not a comprehensive biography of either Billy Sunday or Homer Rodeheaver, it does provide an inside look at their working relationship during the Sunday evangelistic campaigns.



The book 20 Years with Billy Sunday is a classic reference book used in the Winona History and is available for purchase by donation.



Contact Us

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VISIT US

Winona History Center
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HOURS

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

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