

Tac Titooqan Article
January 2017

The Lapwai High School Auditorium has a long and rich history. This historical space was part of the building designs by George M. Rasque and Son. Construction began on December 23, 1940. The first graduation ceremony held in the new auditorium took place in 1941. Those on the Lapwai School District Board of Trustees at that time included Russell Webb, Chairman; E.A. Armstrong, Clerk; Charlie Daniels, W.H. Bundy, E.D. King and G.B. Wilson.

An auditorium is extremely rare for a small rural school district. In recent years we have been successful at obtaining grant support to refurbish this amazing community asset. The district has replaced the shag carpeting and removed encapsulated asbestos. The Idaho Commission on the Arts funded replacement of the curtains. Other grant support has been provided by the Idaho Heritage Trust which supported the refinishing of the stage, and most recently awarded \$3,500 in matching funds to restore the original seating. This restoration is anticipated to occur this summer.

On behalf of the staff and students of the Lapwai School District, I would like to thank the Idaho Heritage Trust for their support. Their grants are awarded annually through requests from all over Idaho, especially small communities such as Lapwai. I urge Idaho legislators to continue to support the Idaho Heritage Trust and its important work in preserving Idaho's history and promoting viable communities. Their partnership with our district ensures that future generations of Lapwai residents will be able to enjoy our historic auditorium. Thank you Idaho Heritage Trust!