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CONTACT: Heather Dawson
Hailey City Administrator
788-4221 ext 18
heather.dawson@haileycityhall.org

HISTORY REVITALIZED AT HOP PORTER PARK ARCH "1922 Hailey Tourist Park Engraving" Uncovered

(Hailey, Idaho) – Community members have been asking for a refurbishing of the arch at Hop Porter Park for several years. Earlier this year, the Hailey Arts Commission coordinated with the art class at Wood River High School to furnish a design of a renovated arch.

In preparation for having the new design applied, the Hailey Street Department sandblasted the old rainbow paint from the arch. History was uncovered when lettering stating "1922 Hailey Tourist Park" emerged in the grey concrete beneath the paint.



Photos by Tracy Anderson

In an effort to preserve that piece of history, Mayor Haemmerle commissioned an artist/sign painter to refurbish the arch in the spirit of the WRHS Art class design, while modifying it to preserve the

historical lettering. The newly painted arch has brought praise from many for its artistic excellence and use of colors and perspective which blend with the other elements of the park.



Photos by Diane Dick

The name of the park has not been changed. There still exists a sign designating the park as Hop Porter Park.

In the event that a Hailey park is to be officially named or renamed, the mayor and council would hold discussions with the community about the “official” name of the park. Hailey records show such discussion by the Hailey City Council to rename Hailey City Park to Hop Porter Park through a 1978 Resolution.

The Hop Porter Park was the beneficiary of a community-wide barn-raising when, in 1998, the playground structure was built through the donated efforts of the community. The volunteers organized themselves under the name Parks Are For Kids (P.A.R.K.)

The park is also home of the now 35 year-old Northern Rockies Folk Festival, which began in 1977 and has continued uninterrupted since then at this park. This music festival is one of the hallmarks of Hailey’s identity.

Hop Porter Park has won awards in the Sun Valley Guide’s Best of the Valley in years 2010, 2011, and 2012, being recognized as the valley’s best Park/Local Garden, best Picnic Spot, and best Children’s Birthday Party Spot.

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