



Image Courtesy Jeff Jentzsch

The 1960s view of the Kennedy Building when it was a three-story structure. The top two stories were removed in 1969.

## ROYAL

Continued from Page 1A

"It's like when you're buying concert tickets. You can get the economy ticket or the one that has the backstage pass," Jentzsch said.

After the dance, Jentzsch plans to turn the building into a storefront with several businesses inside with an area for Art Roamers.

That's the nonprofit organization Jentzsch and his wife, Susan Ogawa, started in 2016. It travels around the world to showcase works by artists from struggling countries.

Pieces promoted by Art Roamers include the metal animals displayed at several places in downtown Baker City.

Jentzsch said he and his wife started working on the Kennedy Building a week ago, and they've found historical treasures.

One discovery was the "United States Supply Company," a book Jentzsch thinks dates to the late 1800s and features bathroom appliances such as iron and porcelain bathtubs ranging from \$40 to \$150.

The property has a rich history.

The building that originally occupied the site was a two-story structure built around 1874 by Catholic vicar Father DeRoo and known as the Arlington Hotel.

"It was the first brick building in Baker City," said Jentzsch.

The hotel was later operated as the Cosmopolitan, and J.T. Kennedy later acquired the building. He probably added the third story, according to the Baker County Library District's historic photo archive.

The top two stories were removed around 1969 by owner Jack Eng, a Baker restaurateur and photographer.

The building was used for a variety of retail outlets, including the first location for Sears in Baker City, Jentzsch said. There was also a real estate business and another company.

"We're going to do something similar," Jentzsch said.

He said remnants of the red velvet wallpaper that graced the former Shangrila restaurant, owned by Eng, are still visible in places. Jentzsch said he will preserve those portions within picture frames.

He plans to have the exterior in tune with the rest of Main Street as period oriented and Victorian styled.

The interior will be more contemporary with spaces to serve multiple uses.

"So, inside will be kind of



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

A mystery for Jentzsch is a support post in the basement's crawl space and storage area that's riddled with shotgun pellets.

planning for the future, while outside will be looking to the past," he said.

Jentzsch has not applied for grants for the renovation. He is trading some antique items, such as the brass candleabras, with other building owners working to restore historic buildings.

Jentzsch attended the University of Idaho and has an associate's degree in architecture and a degree in engineering. He has worked for years in construction.

Jentzsch and his wife had

been visiting her daughter in Baker City five years ago. After establishing Art Roamers, they decided to do a pop up show in town.

"Everybody was so friendly and helpful," Jentzsch said.

From there, they did several shows in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington, eventually making their way back to Baker where they set up the metal animals this summer.

"So, really what brought us to Baker City was the folks, the people," Jentzsch said. "The friendliness, the open-



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Red wallpaper and red paint dominated the interior's color scheme throughout the main floor area.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Old record books discovered in a cubbyhole will be left in the care of professional hands to examine.

ness, the willingness to help and it's just been refreshing."

For 2020 Jentzsch said Art Roamers will be visiting Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and others parts of Southeast Asia.

Inspiration to help foreign artists came when he and his wife went to Nairobi, Kenya.

Jentzsch had gone to Africa as a volunteer for a Utah non-

profit to help with construction projects.

While there, he and his wife met Samuel, a man living in the slums making a life-sized ostrich sculpture. He was the first foreign artist they signed on with Art Roamers.

"We try to select artists or groups that we can make a difference," Jentzsch said.

## What's New At The Library

• 2400 Resort St.

### FICTION

- "Robert B. Parker's Angel Eyes," Ace Atkins
- "A Minute to Midnight," David Baldacci
- "Guilty Not Guilty," Felix Francis
- "The Confession Club," Elizabeth Berg
- "Tom Clancy, Code of Honor," Marc Cameron

### NONFICTION

- "Messy Grace," Caleb Kaltenbach
- "The Great Leveler," Walter Scheidel
- "Rethinking School," Susan Wise Bauer
- "The Colorful Dry Garden," Maureen Gilmer
- "Ghosts of the Tsunami," Richard Lloyd Parry

### DVDS

- "Angry Birds 2" (Family)
- "Christmas in the Heartland" (Holiday)
- "Downsizing" (Sci-Fi)
- "Good Boys" (Comedy)
- "Good Omens" (Sci-Fi/Fantasy)

## Mental Health Advisory Committee to meet Tuesday

The Baker County Mental Health and Developmental Disability Advisory Committee/Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee will meet Tuesday, Nov. 26 at noon at the Total Health building at the back of Saint Alphonsus Medical Center at 3325 Pochontas Road.

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