

De's Dazzles – September 2021

## LET YOUR **LIGHT** SHINE, THE WORLD NEEDS YOUR **LIGHT**

**Let your light shine. Be the Light. The sun always shines.** Well someday, the light is a very dim flicker, especially when more money goes out for unexpected breakdowns and monthly bills, than what comes in at the Corning Opera House. Then I think of all the different kinds of light. Such as striking a match in the depths of a pitch-black cave and that little light drove the tension right out of the area! Or walking on a cloudless night with a flashlight that illuminates the path just far enough to feel safe. Or the sunbeam that breaks through the storm clouds. That's what happened this past month! The spark lit, the flames increased, so the sunrise on the horizon can peek through like the lighthouse beacon breaking through the storm!

**Did you know a follow spot** only shines in one area, follows the performer, and provides a wide range of light? Sounds like our tours! During the seven (7) August historic backstage tours, visitors followed me as I provided a wide range of information on the history, restoration, and current events.

**Did you know the LED stage lights** add hundreds of different colors to add to the excitement and mood of a show? August held many colorful shining moments for the Opera House! Attendees commenting on the quality of entertainment with the promise to return for more; attendees contributing financially; people bringing friends for the first time; and concert attendees rising in unison to sing "I'm Proud To Be An American". It was magical!

**Did you know the Opera House is chock-full of different lights?** There are: a) the outside uplights shining on the building at night; 2) automatic lights conserving energy; 3) auditorium step lights guiding your steps; 4) historic foot light trough preserving history; 5) and storytelling about the "limelight".

**Fun Historical Fact-** Did you know that in 1902 the opera house had decorative chandeliers? They were next to the ceiling and out of reach. A chandelier is a decorative, sometimes ornate, light suspended from a ceiling with branches supporting several lights. The restoration committee tried for months to find information about what company made them and how we could recreate them. It was only in 2011 when scaffolding filled the auditorium, that we were able to inspect the chandeliers only to discover they were made from chicken wire, straw and hand painted! The pigeons loved them!

**Finally, there is the GOBO,** a template that light shines through to project an image onto a surface. (We usually use them in plays/musicals.) Well, the Opera House Board of Directors is working to shine through the gloomy daily news and offering you a place to be radiant in the coming months. The spotlight is gleaming brightly on American Idol's Tristan McIntosh in her Linda Ronstadt Experience on September 26. Our work lights are on 12:30 to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

I think Wilferd Peterson says it well, "So let your light shine! Be a source of strength and courage. Share your wisdom. Radiate love." We are waiting for "floodlights" to brighten up Southwest Iowa and beyond! We have left our ghost light on for you!

*De Heaton, Executive Director*