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# Explore history during First Thursday

Start this month's gallery stroll with a touch of Boise's past.

BY DANA OLAND

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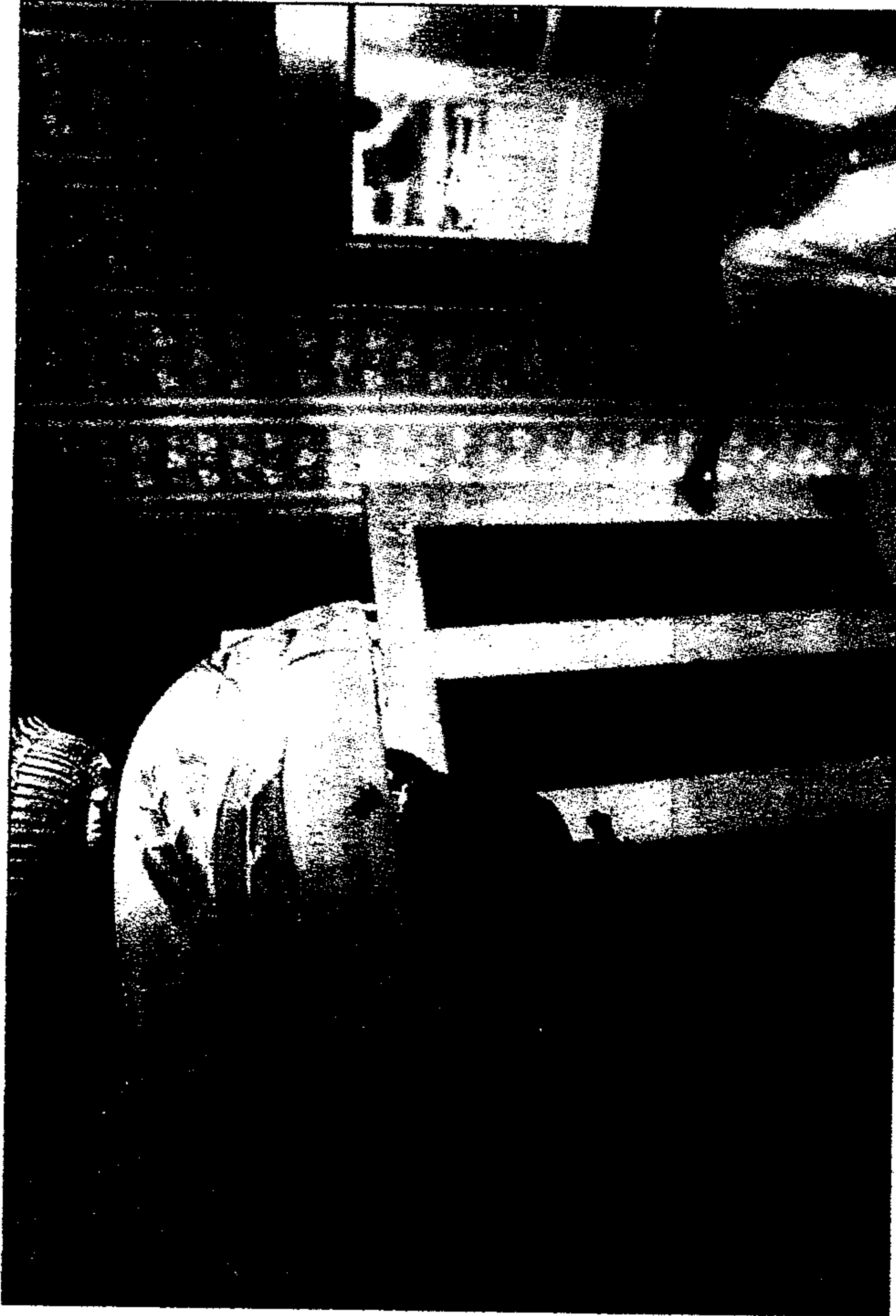
Boise had a rough start as a city. The U.S. Army built Fort Boise in 1863. The sleepy town of prospectors became the state capital the next year, and with that came a city charter. There was just one problem.

No one wanted to be in charge, said Fred Fritchman, exhibit designer at the Idaho Historical Museum.

"In fact, there were council and mayoral candidates who ran on a platform of not taking office," Fritchman said. "And they won (in two separate elections). It's amazing."

It took four years to organize a city government, and H.E. Prickett agreed to become Boise's first official mayor. Then the elected, non-serving mayor stepped down.

That's just some of the interesting and quirky historical facts of Boise's road from dusty prospector's camp to state capital to now, number 100 on the list of largest U.S. cities.



JOE JASZEWSKI / jjaszewski@idahostatesman.com  
Anne Schorzman, event coordinator for the Idaho Historical Museum, shows the museum's new permanent exhibit about the history of Boise as a capital city. The exhibit is in the Thomas Logan house, built in 1865, the only adobe structure left in the city. Along with the historical panels, you'll find few antiques, including this lamp from the 1870s.



Provided by Art Source Gallery  
Dick Deam's painting, "Cock-eyed Dodge," is one of the pieces in Art Source Gallery's national juried art show.

## IF YOU GO

### WHAT

Idaho Historical Museum's "A History of Our Capital City" preview.

### WHEN

5-9 p.m. Thursday, July 2 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 4.

### WHERE

670 Julia Davis Drive, Boise, Free.

You can explore that past at a preview of the Idaho Historical Museum's new permanent exhibit, "Boise: A History of Our Capital City," during First Thursday and on Saturday, July 4. The exhibit's grand opening will be during Museum Comes to Life, on Saturday, Sept. 26. Then it will be open to the public regularly.

The museum created the exhibit because the story of Boise's evolution hadn't been

told before, Fritchman said.

The info-panels fill the small Logan house in Pioneer Village. The village is a grouping of homes from Boise's past, including farmer Issac Coston's log cabin, Richard Adelman's wood-porched dwelling and four-time Boise mayor Thomas Logan's adobe structure, the only adobe house known to still exist in the city.

It's a better use of the

property, said museum event coordinator Anne Schorzman. It will be open and free most of the year.

You also can check out the Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail that is just down the path. The garden is an interactive way to learn about the scientific achievements of the Lewis and Clark expedition, from zoology and botany to geology and orienteering. It will be complete by September.

This is a great place to start your First Thursday tour. The Boise Art Museum is next door, with free admission and a 5:30 p.m. Art Talk about Devorah Sperber's intriguing "Threads of Perception" exhibit.

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