



MAKING HISTORY
IN ADA COUNTY



Adelia Garro Simplot

The Ada County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to present its Making History Award to Adelia Garro Simplot for her contributions in preserving Ada County's history for future generations.

This year's Making History Award recipient is Adelia Garro Simplot. Ada County is recognizing Adelia for her work in preserving a number of historic buildings on Boise's Basque Block.

Early Life

Adelia was born in Boise, Idaho to Eustaquio Garroguerricaechevarria (Garro) and Grace Ragsdale. Her father had emigrated to Idaho from the Basque Country. He started out as a sheepherder and eventually became a barber. Adelia grew up on a small farm in South Boise. One of her recollections from childhood is that everyone in Boise knew everyone. She remembers the Basque Center building built when she was a girl and learning Basque dancing there. She graduated high school from St. Theresa's Academy and attended Idaho State College in Pocatello.

Family Life

Adelia married Dick Simplot in 1953. Adelia and her late husband Dick had four (4) children, Ted, Laurie, Will, and Ann.

Community Life & Preservation Work

Adelia has been involved in the Treasure Valley community for decades. She became involved with the Idaho State Historical Museum in 1960, becoming a charter member and served as president of the Auxiliary. She is also a founding member of the Idaho Historic Preservation Council, which later became the current Preservation Idaho. This group was formed in response to the City's Urban Renewal efforts. During the Urban Renewal Period of the 1960's and 70's many older buildings were torn down to make way for urban renewal. Adelia and others banded together to save these older buildings from being torn down.

She purchased the Cyrus Jacobs/Uberuaga Boarding House in 1983. She wanted to save this building and preserve it as a part of Boise's history. This house was built in 1864 and is the oldest surviving brick structure in Boise. It was originally home to the Cyrus Jacobs family and was later used as a Basque boarding house. Along with others in the community they worked to renovate the building and make it a part of the Basque Museum & Cultural Center.



*Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga
Boarding House*

Adelia was also instrumental in purchasing other buildings on the Basque Block such as the Anduiza boarding house & fronton from the Briggs family and the building at 611 W. Grove Street, which houses the Basque Museum & Cultural Center. She was also able to save the Cub Tavern building at the corner of Capital Boulevard and Grove Street by coming up with a parking solution for another development.

Other community activities Adelia has been involved with includes:

- Community Relations Coordinator for the Simplot Company
- Member of the Ballet Advisory Board, Boise
- Served as President of the Basque Museum and Cultural Center
- Elected to the Basque Hall of Fame in 1993
- Board Member of the Boise Philharmonic Association
- Served on the Mount Vernon Ladies Association

ADA COUNTY MAKING HISTORY AWARD

The Ada County Making History Award honors people whose activities today are creating our future history. Ada County is pleased to present its Making History Award to Adelia Garro Simplot an advocate for preserving historic buildings in Boise; specifically the Basque Block in downtown Boise.