

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY ~ MARCH 2013

P.O. BOX 266 ~ 601 MAIN STREET ~ WESTON, MISSOURI 64098 ~ 816-386-2977

Ann Saugstad Retires; Barb Fulk Appointed

During the December meeting of the Board of Trustees, president Carl Felling announced the retirement of Museum Director, Ann Saugstad. Ann had been wanting to do this for some time, but was holding off until the president found someone to take her place.

Carl introduced the new Museum Director, Mrs. Barbara Fulk. Barbara has been working as a volunteer at the museum for the last six months and is a former teacher of history at West Platte. She is, of course, interested in history, has good management skills and works well with our small group of volunteers. We welcome her as the new director and look forward to working with her.



BARBARA FULK

Ann will continue to work, as a volunteer, at the museum, but wanted more time to spend with her husband, Dennis, her children and grandchildren. Ann has been an exemplary individual to work with and has done a great job as director. She is currently working with Mrs. Fulk to help her "learn the ropes."

We are pleased to know Ann will continue on as a volunteer.



ANN SAUGSTAD

Museum Welcomes New Volunteers

In recent weeks a few new volunteer have stepped up to help in the museum on Mondays.

Jerry Adams, a former resident and a graduate of West Platte, has returned to Weston following his retirement and has offered his help to the present group of volunteers. Jerry is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vern Adams who ran a shoe store on Main Street in the 1950's.

With a son and daughter who live in the St. Louis area, Jerry frequently travels there to keep up with his grandchildren's activities and to enjoy "family time".

Jeanne Braneff is another recent volunteer for the museum. She and her husband, Mel, come from El Paso, Tex., where Jeanne was an elementary school teacher. She is a member of the Methodist Church and is involved in the Weston Garden Club.

Mel is a civilian employee at Fort Leavenworth and both of the Braneffs are trying to adjust to the weather here in Missouri. The museum and Weston welcome these two in our midst and appreciate Jeanne's help at the museum.

We would like to encourage any other retirees who have "time on their hands" and would like to help with making displays, learning Weston history, etc. to come and join our group. We meet each Monday from around 9 am to 3 pm. Feel free to come in whenever and stay for however long you can.

A little crazy but a whole lot of fun makes for a great use of one's time.

Renovator Needed

An Edison Victrola was donated to us last year. It is in workable condition but needs some renovation done on the wood cabinet. If there is someone out there who would care to take on such a project in their spare time, please give us a call or come see it at the museum. Thank you.

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: Trivia Night - March 23rd :
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Weston's Lawmen Through The Years

With the help of Weston Police Chief Terry Blanton, we have been trying to put together a roster of Night Watchmen, Marshals and Police Officers in Weston over the past 158 years (the first year we can find any mention of law enforcement).

Though there are a number of gaps and blanks on first names, we thought our readers might enjoy seeing who served and protected us through the years.

As always, if any of our readers can provide additional names or dates, please give us a call at the Museum (816-386-2977) or drop us a note. Photographs would be especially appreciated. We can scan an original or download digital copies.

Until 1972, Weston hired, appointed or elected City Marshals. Occasionally, a Night Watchman covered vacancies or assisted the Marshal. In 1973, the City switched to a Police Chief position which was hired by the Board of Alderman. The late Harlen Carter had the distinction of being the last elected City Marshal and the first Police Chief hired.

- 1855 Simeon Scruggs, City Marshal
- 1869 W.N. Kenny, City Marshal
- 1873 F.H. Lewis, City Marshal
- 1874 ? Gilbert, City Marshal
- May 1880 ? Evans, City Marshal



Jimmy Henderson served as City Marshal from 1962 through 1964. He and his wife owned "Ruth's Cafe" for several years. It was located where Weston Cafe is presently.



Albert Boltz, who served as City Marshal between 1965 and 1967.

- Sept. 1880 ? Beisinger, Night Watchman
- 1885 David Auer, Jr., City Marshal
- 1897-1908 James Murdock, City Marshal
- 1909 Ben Brown, City Marshal
- 1912-1947 Jesse Lindsey, City Marshal
(He served 35 years, with one or two periods when others were put into office.)
- 1914-1918 E.W. Miller, City Marshal
- 1936-1938 B.B. Brown, City Marshal
- 1938-1940 Donald Weigman, Night Watchman
(Killed while on duty, March 1940.)
- 1951 Mike Jacobson, City Marshal
- 1956-1963 Elmer Hunt, City Marshal
- 1960-1964 Carlos Howard, Night Watchman
(later appointed Weston's first Municipal Judge)
- 1962-1964 Jimmy Henderson, City Marshal
- 1965-1967 Albert Boltz, City Marshal
- 1966-1967 Lee Blankenship, Night Watchman
- 1969-1970 Bill Perkins, City Marshal
- 1970 Edgar Chadwick, City Marshal
- 1970 Galen Higdon, City Marshall
- 1971-1972 Larry Winter, City Marshal
- 1972- 1973 Harlen Carter, Police Chief
- 1973-1974 Kenny Francis, Police Chief
- 1974-1975 John Bowler, Police Chief
- 1975-1976 Tom Magee, Police Chief
- 1976-1978 Bob Boydston, Police Chief
- 1978 Carl Rutherford, Police Chief

(Continued on Page 7)

Next Trivia Night Is March 23rd; Get Ready

Get your reservations in now for Weston Historical Museum's latest "Trivia Night"! It will be Saturday evening, March 23rd, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the Weston Mid-Continent Library.

The price to play is \$15 per person. Bring your own team or join a table that evening. Wine, soda and water are provided but you will need to bring your own snacks.

Ten questions on each of ten subjects will be asked each team. Categories have ranged from sports (who invented basketball) to entertainment (what is the longest running animated TV series) and beyond. Weston history is always one category (name three authors from Weston); and there is usually at least one picture or sound track category.

So come test your knowledge of the interesting and inane and learn all sorts of new tidbits that will astound your watercooler cohorts.

All proceeds go toward the Museum's General Fund to help with the upkeep and maintenance. Hope to see you there with your pencils and wits sharpened!

Hambys Donate New Glass Display Case

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hamby of Weston recently donated a large, glass-fronted display case to the museum. Approximately five and a half feet tall and three feet wide, the case will be used on the upper level of the museum.

The case has a number of glass shelves and can be lighted from within, which is also a plus. Plans for the case include featuring family histories of those who came to Weston either in the late 1880's or after the turn of the 20th century.

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Check Us Out Online

www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org

For pictures, curator columns, special events and other bits of information.

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Did You Know . . .

. . . who the first Trustees of Weston were? They were George Baber, Samuel Abel Gilbert, John Thornburg, Theodore F. Warner and Jeremiah Woods. Other early-day Fathers of Weston were Ben Holladay, Samuel Moore, Sol F. McCurdy, G.W. Belt, W.S. Briggs, Railey, Lorenzo Bird and Hoeck House.

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. . . when and where Weston's first concrete street was laid? It was in 1922 on Cherry street between Spring and Walnut streets.

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. . . the Weston Presbyterian Church was organized August 28, 1842? It was organized by the Rev. E.A. Carson with the following members: Mary Cowles, Robert A. Cummins, America P. Hudson, Anna Nash, Elizabeth Neville, Elizabeth and Samuel Norton, Roderick E. Stevens, P.M. Underhill and Caroline R. Case.

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. . . O.G. Watson built the retention wall along the east wall of his property at the corner of Welt and Walnut streets? He was finishing the job in early April of 1946 and planned to put concrete steps to the rear of the lot for an entry there. Watson started the project in the fall of the previous year, 1945.

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. . . at one time citizens of Weston were hoping and looking forward to a coal mine either in or very near Weston? In April of 1887 the editor of the local paper was chiding the businessmen of Weston for not moving on the idea.

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. . . Enger Hillix was the valedictorian and Grace Plummer was salutatorian for the 1920 WHS graduating class? Other class members were H.B. Adkins, Jr., Eva Marie Berntsen, Reuben Burns, Owens Lee Hull, Beulah Page, Ellen Polk, Helen Rumpel, Rosalie Spinner, Allie Splaun, Rue Willis and Byron Winburn.

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. . . the C.H. Porter & Co. store opened June 4, 1920 in Weston? Unfortunately, we are not certain exactly where it was located. Do you?

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. . . that there was a seven-man Fiddling Contest at the Sugar Creek Festival in late Sept. 1936? John Armstrong of Bendena, Ks., won first place; George

*(Continued on next page)*

## Did You Know . . . (Continued)

Calvert of Sugar Creek won second; and Lester Garton of DeKalb won third prize.

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. . . that at one of the Kansas City W.H.S. alumni picnics, among the oldest members were Bob Richardson (poet laureate), Mrs. Hugh Graves, and W.B. Seeger? Among the youngest members were M.R. Waggoner, Jr., Carl Roberts, Charles Bradley, and Donald McAdow. The youngest children, in attendance with parents or other relatives, included Chester McCalley, Saralyn Davis, C.A. Bless, Jr., and Geraldine Sue Murphy.

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. . . that in January of 1899, Bradstreet's listed 99 firms in Weston in 36 industries or professions? There were 10 dry goods stores, five boot and shoe makers, eight grocery stores. Peter Beechler, founder of the great firm of Beechler Wagons was among those listed. Other shops included tobacco store, saddler, tailor, nursery (Adam Durkes), photography, confectioner (Mettier), brewer, flour mill, hardware, drugs, B.W. Perry & Co., distillers, bankers, butcher, furniture and hotel.

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(In the last *Musings* we listed members of the Museum's first Board of Trustees. Richard L. Cray should have read Richard B. Cray. We thank his daughter, Patty Cray Mach, for the correction.)

Bits and Pieces from Bertha's Morgue

In May of 1950 we read, "Audrey V. McCalley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCalley, was sworn in as a full licensed attorney at law in the state of Missouri before the Supreme Court of Missouri in Jefferson City, April 17th.

This ceremony climaxed five years of college work and law school study at the University of Kansas City. For the first time in the history of the state, the Missouri Bar planned a special swearing-in ceremony for all participants.

Chief Justice Laurance M. Hyde, of the supreme court, gave the oath to the new lawyers and reminded them of their serious responsibilities."

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In November of 1951 we found this bit of news, "Kenneth, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Offutt, received

the Star Award in Boy Scouting at a ceremony last week. Kenneth was also honored earlier in the school year by being elected Captain of the School Boy Patrol. Kenny takes both his scouting and his duties on the school patrol quite seriously."

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An item in the *Weston Chronicle* in March of 1952 apprised us of a death, "A.G. Rader, 71, formerly an antique dealer here in Weston, has died. His mother was Mrs. Susan Rader who was 88 at the time of her death in 1931. 'Ad's' father had been a Confederate soldier."

~ o ~

The Weston Chronicle announced in September 1958: Among those West Platte graduates going off to college for the first time this fall are Dorothy Hiatt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. "Doc" Hiatt and Jerry Hobbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hobbs. They will be attending classes at North West Missouri State College in Maryville, Mo."

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Miss Janice Rees, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reese, won a number of awards and ribbons while riding her horse at shows in places such as Salem, Nebr. and St. Joseph, Mo. In an item found in the local newspaper dated July 27, 1962 we read, "Miss Rees wears an authentic costume, while doing some of her horse shows, and the different parts of it have been donated by friends. She uses a side saddle owned by Lucy McAdow; high-laced shoes of Mrs. George Russell; a hat from Miss Fannie Bonnell and plumes for the hat from Maude Bonnell; and a dress of Mrs. Erma Ross Gray's. She has won nine ribbons in this costume and riding her horse "Little Head".

~ o ~

There was a good deal of speculation over the following item in September of 1969: "Wilbur Rowland, while digging in his yard, found a coin with engraving on one side that reads 'Weston Chapter No. 4 R.A.M., chartered October 16, 1847, Weston, Mo.' On the other side of the coin there is engraved an image of a gavel and what appears to be a tool, plus the words 'One Penny'. Does anyone have any knowledge about the coin?"

"The Museum Musings" is published four times a year. Subscription rate is \$12.00 for non-members. Members receive the newsletter as part of the price of a membership.

From Our Mail Bag . . .

In the 1940's, "From Our Mailbag" was a column in *The Weston Chronicle* which frequently shared letters from their subscribers. On February 18, 1944 the following two letters appeared in that column.

". . . You do an amazing good job of keeping up with people everywhere who once lived in Weston. A bit of news about an old friend is as welcome as a letter from home . . . I, too, remember the red flannel shirt Mr. Pete Seeger wore. (Note: Pete Seeger was one of the Sexton's of Laurel Hill Cemetery and when digging a grave or working in the cemetery he always wore a red flannel shirt.) He was one of our best neighbors, and we girls idolized him.

"Often we sat on his back steps (a pair of wooden shoes just inside the door) as he told us stories of life in his native land, his coming to America and early days in Weston. Once when I was quite a little girl, he took me to Iatan fishing and we caught fifty or sixty fish, little ones, but what fun it had been.

"Today I was thinking that it was Marie Ohlhause who very painstakingly taught me to knit. And it has been of much value to me recently as I made a number of knitted pants for our baby — used in lieu of the rubber ones. Believe me, they're wonderful. There's no doubt about it, we never really grow away from our own home town.

Sincerely,
Marjery Risk Beebe"

"Your issue of January 7th carried two articles that caused my "Time Machine" to be set in motion and my mind's eye to take a backward flop to the middle '80's.

"The first was the passing of John Rohring; it brought to mind the big, husky figure crouched behind the home plate, receiving the bullet-like pitches of John Wesley Ohlhause, the corkscrew, deceptive slants of Jim Ellinger, or taking a throw from a field to head off a run; Charles (Geese) Ohlhause at first, scooping them up from the ground, or a high throw from a fielder: Julius Rumpel at second, grabbing them off the grass tops or taking in a short field fly; Bob Light at short, covering all the space between second and third taking in everything that came his way, tossing them to second for the put-out; Ben Price at third, eating up the hot ones at that corner;

myself in center, taking in the high ones or retrieving the rollers, relaying them to the infield where they would do the most good; sorry I can't recall who was in left and right field, but I can safely say this, when a baseball team played that bunch they knew they had been in a ball game.

"The other item was the passing of one of "Moses Lambs", Jim Wilson. Well do I remember "Moses and his Lambs"; they really did furnish a lot of rhythm to tickle the feet of the youngsters of the "Gay 80's" with Taylor Herndon and Jim Breen calling the figures. Then when "Moses and his Lambs" would settle back to the lazy melodies of the waltz and schottische, each couple gliding back and forth with the ease of the "Man on the flying trapeze;" those were happy days.

"The articles brought to mind the words, 'Backward, turn backward oh time in your flight, make me a child again, just for tonight.' I wonder how many are left who recall the happy days I refer to in the above. Would like to hear from them.

Very truly yours,
J.G. Hayes
(Yazoo City, Miss.)"

TO HOLD GREAT BRIDGE OPENING CELEBRATION

Platte County and Leavenworth County Concurring in Arrangements

(This item of news was found in the July 2, 1926 issue of The Weston Chronicle.)

July 10th is the date set for the formal celebration of the opening of the free bridge between Missouri and Kansas on the site near Fort Leavenworth. The place for holding the celebration has not been definitely settled, but it is believed most expedient to have it in the Reservation on the Platte County side of the river. The grounds are spacious, pleasant and cool, all of which are conducive to larger crowds. The Chambers of Commerce representing the two counties are working together on this and other plans.

A number of notable citizens of both states and of the United States have been invited and a great many are expected to help entertain the crowds.

All of Platte County is urged to set aside Saturday afternoon, July 10, in which to help celebrate the date and great event.

Weston Historical Museum Members

January 2013

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Jerry Adams
 Robert and Delores Baker
 William E. Baskett *
 Earl and Dot Benner
 Douglas W. Bogart
 Howard and Bethene Breen
 Jimmie and Lola Burrow
 William (Bill) Carson
 Richard B. Cray
 Vivian Beck Dissette
 Jeff and Janet Elsea
 Richard Felling
 Jeff and Pat Gaskill *
 Sally Gaskill and Massimo Ossi
 Mitzie Hall
 Virginia Hall *
 Suzy Hardesty
 Mr. and Mrs. William Hart
 Donald and Susanne Head *
 Frances Hornbuckle
 Floyd and Susan Hudson
 Owen "Bub" R. Hull
 Owens "Lee" Hull, Jr. *
 Walt (Sandy) and Joan Humphrey
 Louise Harpst Jackson
 Jana Collison Johnson
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Johnston
 Judith Pettit Juergens *
 Kenneth Juergens
 Dr. and Mrs. Ray Kirk
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 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kisker
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 Helen Benzinger
 Dr. Saundra McMillan
 Charlotte V. Miller *
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 Judy Shenefield
 Louise E. (Doppler) Smith

STUDENT

Coy Kirby
 Coy Taylor
 Kaylee Taylor
 Trent Taylor

* Denotes additional donation

Statues, Headstones, And Symbols, Oh My!



A recent article read in some magazine or other gave some facts that most people might find interesting:

If a statue of a person on horseback has the horse with both front legs in the air, it means the person died in battle.

If the horse has one front leg in the air, it symbolizes that the rider died as a result of wounds received in battle.

If the horse has all four legs on the ground, it symbolizes that the person died of natural causes.

An hourglass on a tombstone symbolized the flight of time. So too, did a scythe and a pair of wings.

In early days, a ship on a tombstone indicated that the man in the ground had been in the navy and his honorable service therein.

A lamb or a kneeling angel most often marked the graves of children.



A squirrel cracking a nut is said to be a symbol of religious meditation. And, when bunches of grapes are combined with ears of corn, they symbolize the blood and body of Christ.

The journalistic symbol for the end of an article looks like this:

-30-

Always continue the climb. It is possible for you to do whatever you choose, if you first get to know who you are and are willing to work with a power that is greater than ourselves to do it.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Special Fund Formed for Restorations

Within the last month, President Carl Felling met with Ms. Peggy Van Witt in Omaha, Nebraska, who is an arts conservator of paintings. He took with him two paintings from the museum, one of Weston that is rather unique and quite old; the other of the Weston Brewery in the early days.

Both are badly in need of restoration and preservation work. However the estimate for the necessary work is between \$1,600 and \$2,000. Presently the museum does not have the required funds available.

During a recent Executive Museum Board meeting, it was discussed and decided to set up a special fund just for restoration/preservation work.

The balance is currently zero, and no individual or company has been approached as yet. Discussions continue as to how to fund it.

If any of our readers would care to contribute to such an effort, please contact Carl Felling, Barb Fulk or Carolyn Larsen.

Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

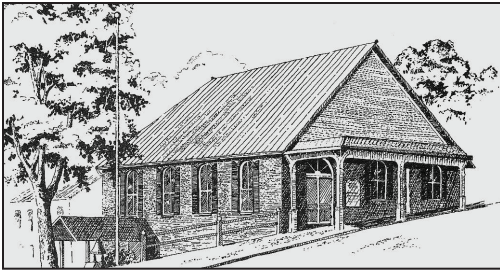
Weston's Lawmen . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1979 | Sam Taylor, Acting Police Chief |
| 1979 | George E. Kennedy, Police Chief |
| 1979-1980 | James L. Glover, Police Chief |
| 1980-1981 | Carl Harper, Acting Police Chief |
| 1981-1982 | Dennis B. Boer, Police Chief |
| 1982-1995 | Larry Winfrey, Police Chief |
| 1995- | Terry Blanton, Police Chief |

Police Officers & Reserve Officers:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Dennis O'Dell | Larry Clemens |
| John D. Jordan | Pat Carter |
| Carl Harper | David Lancaster |
| Raymond Payne | John Bless |
| Greg Carter | Larry Winter |
| Sam Taylor | Gene Day |
| Dennis Williamson | Lynn Johnson |
| Tom Taulbee | Kay Carter |
| Ron Ferrante | Terry Blanton |
| Gloria Carter | Kip McGrath |
| Nancy Honerkamp | Keith Payne |
| Bill Regina | Steve Efthimos |
| Chris Wallingford | Bill Taylor |



WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Permit No. 7

"If we do not know our history, we will lose our road to the future."

Unknown

Today's Mystery Corner: Who Are These Children?

In the 1950's and early 60's, *The Weston Chronicle* had a photographer come in to capture the images of the children of Weston.

A number of these have recently been donated to the museum and most have been identified. These two, however, are unknown.

Do you recognize or know either of them? Could one of them be you or a sibling, a cousin, a friend?

Please give us a call at 816-386-2977 or stop by and tell us what you know about them.

