

# MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY ~ MARCH 2014

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

## Essay Winners Announced; Business Histories Finished



Photograph Courtesy of *The Weston Chronicle*

*Board President Carl Felling welcomes guest to the December 12th Open House honoring the Essay Contest winners.*

Thursday, December 12th, the Weston Historical Museum held a wine and cheese tasting event on the upper floor of the museum. Honored guests were the winners of the museum's essay contest entitled "Weston's Most Memorable Year" and their families, as well as the busy merchants of Weston.

Museum Vice President Clay Bauske made the announcement and introduced the winners, presenting them with their prizes. First place in the Open Division was Ms. Janice Ring with her essay entitled "Communication Central"; Jessica Wyatt with her essay, "We Stood Up" won first place in the Junior/Senior Division; and Grace Cogan, took first in the Elementary Division with her essay "Fires and Firemen". This was the second year Grace won first place in her division.

Second and third place winners were Zofia Farley, Kathy Miller, Kaleb Baber and Nathan Wilson.

### Histories Presented to Building Owners

Following the presentation of the winners, the merchants heard a bit of the background work done on the histories of their buildings downtown.

Charles and Ruth Bless, who were editors of *The Weston Chronicle* from 1948 until 1977, started a project in the mid-to-late 1960's, that they found interesting, fun and yet often frustrating. They began to research the histories of the buildings in downtown Weston, hoping to discover all of the different businesses that once

*(Continued on Page 4)*

### It's Membership Time Again

January 1st is the beginning of our fiscal year. It is time for Membership renewals in the Weston Museum and Historical Society.

Enclosed in this issue is a Membership Card return envelope. Please fill it out and return it with your check in the provided envelope.

Feel free to share this issue with others and encourage them to join in support of the Museum.

Since this is also tax season, please remember us when doing your financial planning. Memorial gifts for family and friends are always appreciated.

### Trivia Night Set for March 1st

Our next Trivia Night has been scheduled for Saturday, March 1st and we now have a new venue — the Weston Masonic Hall. This will not have the worries of allergies or an over-crowded area for contestants.

The cost remains \$15 per player. Bring your own special snacks. Wine, soft drinks and water will be provided. The time is 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. Don't forget to invite friends and relatives to join in the event. All proceeds go to help the museum keep its doors open for everyone without charge.

# Annual Dinner Well Attended

Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Kate Parsons, the Weston Historical Museum's annual membership dinner was held at Eventful, Sunday evening November 3rd.

Prior to dinner, members and guests were greeted at the door by an Alexander Majors re-enactor who was also the speaker for the evening. Members enjoyed a cash bar and socializing with those present before the dinner.

The meal was catered by The Avalon and enjoyed by approximately eighty people.

Following the dinner, reports were heard from the museum president, director and others. Prior to the election of officers, Mrs. Margaret Wilson and Mrs. Virginia Hall asked to be relieved as active board members. The requests were granted and the two ladies were moved to Board Member Emeritus status. This was also done in 2012 for Mrs. Joan Taloff, Mrs. Mary Ruth Bradley and Mrs. Sandy Miller.

Officers elected were: Carl Felling, President; Clay Bauske, Vice President; Recording Secretary, Patricia Peterson Benner; and Ted S. Wilson, Treasurer.

Trustees with terms expiring in 2014 are:

- Earl Benner, Jr.
- Marsha Hickerson West
- Julie Hoyt Pasley
- Kiah E. Harris
- Ted S. Wilson
- Susan Cline Grinlinton
- Frances Firmer Stoner
- David R. Knox
- Ann Dickson Saugstad
- Sigrid Otto Rowland

Trustees with terms expiring in 2015 are:

- Carolyn Bless Larsen
- Barbara Downing Fulk
- Jeffrey L. Elsea
- B. Jean Breitweiser Hartley
- George Z. Hull, III
- Louis B. Smither
- I. Raymond Kirk
- Ruth Poss Marr
- Clay Bauske
- Charlotte Vandrell Miller



Margaret Wilson



Joan Taloff



Virginia Hall\*



Mary Ruth Bradley

\*Photo Courtesy of The Weston Chronicle

Trustees with terms expiring in 2016 are:

- Patricia Peterson Benner
- Carl J. Felling
- Jerry A. Adams
- Charles E. Sebus
- Rebecca Hanson Robertson
- Michael J. Bohaty
- Judith Pettit Juergens
- Samantha Norris Kinslow
- Abe Shafer, V
- Joseph P. Pepper

President Carl Felling then introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Gary Hicks, who talked in the person of Alexander Majors. Hicks gave a historical perspective on Majors, his life and times, his family and his beliefs.

## Bits and Pieces from Bertha's Morgue

This speculation came in the local newspaper issue of April 19, 1907: "There is some talk of Kelly & Lysle of Leavenworth building a small elevator at Farley this summer."

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In 1911 this article was found in an issue of *The Weston Chronicle*: "Jacob Engel has purchased the old jail building and the ground back of the Methodist church from the city. He will convert the jail into a cow barn and fence the ground. The foot bridge which has been the source of a short cut to many pedestrians in that end of town will also be removed."

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March 23, 1934 it was noted in the local paper that Herman Jones had bought the Ellis Mann's Café that is located in the Sebus building on Main Street. Mr. and Mrs. Jones had formerly operated a Café in the Waggoner Building."

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An issue dated Sept. 30, 1938 brought us this item: "Mrs. Mary Stultz Hall, who this week closed the deal of the purchase of the Ruf property on Washington Street, expects to have a new roof put on the house immediately. This is one of Weston's old landmarks, and can be made into a very comfortable home." (This was believed to also have been the home of the Renz family who had the stable and delivery at the corner of Thomas and Blackhawk.)

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In the same issue we found this: "Harry Weigman and workmen have been remodeling the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lindenmeyer on east Thomas Street. A basement was dug, a bathroom built, hardwood floors laid, a sleeping porch added, and a rearrangement of the interior, all combine to make it a modern home."

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May 1, 1942 *The Weston Chronicle* gave us this: "Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bradley held a housewarming dinner party Sunday at their newly furnished home. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Richardson, Jr. and Ben Turner and family of Camden Point; Terrell Richardson and family, Dewey Richardson and family, Mrs. Helen Pyles and son, Richard of Kansas City."

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News of the Farley community was also found in the same issue as above: "The community was

## Museum, Library Team Up For Display of History

The Mid-Continent Public Library and the Weston Historical Museum teamed up in mid-November to display, within the Weston library branch, a number of interesting artifacts from the museum.

Three separate display cases on a table just inside the doors of the library contain items of new and old technology, old toys, and items depicting an old fashioned Christmas season which includes old children's books. Members of the library staff designed a bulletin board display with old photo of various places in Weston. They also helped the museum volunteers in getting everything put together.

This project is a chance to reach out to the community and perhaps create more interest in the museum and what it holds for the public to enjoy.



saddened last Thursday morning by the death of John Copeland of Leavenworth. Mr. Copeland had lived in Platte County the greater part of his life and reared his family here. Funeral services were held at the Christian Church here Saturday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Henry Last of Leavenworth. Masonic rites were conducted at the Green cemetery. The large crowd who gathered to pay their last tribute of respect to this fine citizen was evidence of the high esteem in which he was held."

# Essay Winners . . .

(Continued on Page 4)

occupied them. They were joined in the work by their daughter Ruth Mary Bless Clemens who was the photographer, taking several photos of each building.



Grace Cogan, winner of the Elementary Division of the Museum Essay contest.

Off and on through the years, the Bless couple continued to check through their old newspaper files, county records as well as city and state records for any information they might glean on the buildings. Some of the information they found was used to help in the application for naming Weston as a Historic District in the early 1970's. However, the project was never completed and in 2002 following their deaths, Carolyn Bless Larsen took on the project.

In 2010 she was joined in the work by Mrs. Sue Phillips, a neighbor and a member of the Historical Museum. By the end of 2011, they felt they were getting close to the end of the project. Mrs. Marsha West stepped in at that time, offering to help put all of the information into a special program on the museum computer. This work also included photographs of the buildings through the years and advertisements by the different businesses.

Through all of 2012 and most of 2013 Marsha and Carolyn entered the data but also continued to find questions. At that time they started "hitting up" people on the street: former business owners, Weston old-timers etc., to help with further knowledge of the buildings. No one was immune to the questions, the phone calls, the e-mails.

At long last, in July of 2013, the project of nearly 50 years of work came to completion.

During the evening each merchant was presented with a copy of the history of his/her building to display in their business or keep on file for the future.

## Check Us Out Online

[www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org)

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



Photograph Courtesy of The Weston Chronicle

Junior-Senior High School Division Essay winners, left to right: Kaleb Baber, Nathan Wilson and Jessica Wyatt, with Clay Bauske.



Photograph Courtesy of The Weston Chronicle

Open Division Essay winners, left to right: Kathy Miller, Marilyn Lindahl and Janice Ring with Clay Bauske.

Carolyn Larsen and Marsha West present building histories to Pete McCaffrey and Chuck Sebus. McCaffrey owns the Main Street building which housed Felling's Clinic and Mantiques, on Main Street. Chuck and his brother Bill own Sebus Brothers True-Value Hardware on Main.



Photographs Courtesy of The Weston Chronicle

## Platte Valley Club Was Busy Group

According to museum member, Beverly Steele McConnell, there was a group of ladies who banded together to form a group called the Platte Valley Community Club. She did not know when the group first started but knew it was before World War II.

Some of the members that Beverly could remember were Doris, Myrtle and Mary Nower, Emma Steele, Genevieve Unmessig, Bill (female) Nichols, Dolly Taulbee, Lida Taulbee and her mother, Myrtle Graves, Miss June Durkes and sister, Mrs. Crockett, Anna Harris, Hazel Nichols, Winifred Taulbee, Emma Davis, Lucille Berry, Una Berry and her mother, Abby Peal, Mrs. Scholz and daughter, Frances. These ladies lived in and around the Platte Valley School located near the viaduct that goes over the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks about 2 ½ miles Northwest of Weston on Highway 45.

In their early years, the ladies would meet one or two days in the Fall and would peel, cut, cook and can apples for the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. The apples were provided by the Hall Orchard in Weston. Many quarts of the canned apples were sent to Mercy to help provide for the patients. Beverly believes that somewhere in someone's "archives" there is a letter from Mercy Hospital expressing their appreciation to the Club.

## Farley Organ Dedicated Sunday Afternoon

*(This article was taken from the May 1, 1942 issue of The Weston Chronicle.)*

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Harris, Mrs. Bert Woodring, Mrs. Gertie Kyle and Mr. and Mrs. Henry McDonnell were among the large congregation of members and friends at the dedication of the Farley church new organ Sunday. They report a very beautiful organ recital and many congregational hymns, most of them sung in chant form, an old form of church music.

"The thing I liked best," said Mrs. Harris in reporting it, "was the praise or joyous tone that was in the singing." Mrs. Harris also liked the fact that so many men were singing as though they really wanted to sing God's praises.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris and Mesdames Kyle and Woodring also visited Mrs. Mae Ford and Mrs. Bess Moss."

## Do You Remember This?

*(This is taken from the August 10, 1934 issue of The Weston Chronicle)*

Shortly after noon last Friday Ollie Farris, aged 23, and Forrest O. Bryson, 22, entered the Bank of Weston and while one covered Mrs. E.C. Wilson who was at the cashier's window, the other ordered Mrs. Frances Crockett to hand over the money in the bank. The robbery climaxed a three-day absence without leave from the Fort for the two men, who had spent most of that period with a distant relative of one of the men. W.G. Lykins of near DeKalb, the relative, is also suspected of having helped in the plans for the robbing of the bank.

E.C. Wilson, president of the bank, was on a vacation in Colorado, returning late last Friday night, without hearing about the robbery. It is believed the robbers knowing this, took advantage of the noon-day lull in business and planned a quick getaway.

Taking \$1,184.00, they made their way quickly to the car of Mrs. Grace Jewell, which was located in front of the Chronicle office. Ordering her to start the car, they pointed the gun at her; when she assured them her car was out of commission, verified by Oscar Sharp who was working on the care, they fled back of the tobacco barns.

Meanwhile Mrs. Wilson had spread the alarm uptown and Mr. Sharp immediately sent out word too; soon a posse headed by Deputy C.A. Murdock, Nighwatchman Lindsey, Alvis Walton and Mr. Sharp surrounded the bandits in the weeds near the Riley place on the Bluff road, and they were ordered to stand up and hold up their hands. When one seemed to drop his hand, as though to reach for a gun, Jesse Lindsey fired his automatic shotgun three times, instantly killing Farris and wounding Bryson. Sharp had the presence of mind to remain with the body of the dead man until he had been searched and some \$600.00 taken from him. The other bandit had about \$150.00. The balance is still missing.

Farris' body was brought to Brill's Mortuary and was later taken to Fort Leavenworth and claimed by relatives in Kentucky.

"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.

## Did You Know . . .

. . . that the first ready-mix food to be sold commercially was made in St. Joseph? It was pancake mix—Aunt Jemima's.

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. . . that Dec. 31, 1838 Platte was finally formed as a separate county, with the boundaries still in effect today? Before that date, the area had been attached to Clay County due to civil and military purposes.

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. . . that in 1840 Weston had a total population of 300? Some ten or twelve years later the population was counted as 5000.

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. . . that A.G. Beller was known not only as a minister and a lawyer, but also as an artist? He was also the editor of a pro-slavery newspaper in Weston called *The Border Times*.

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. . . that Weston was visited by hordes of grasshoppers three times since 1866? That year they climbed the walls and stayed over into the fall of 1867. They returned in 1875, staying through the next year. During that time four plantings of corn were made, the last in July. Their arrival in 1937 was not so severe but many crops were cut because of the hoppers.

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. . . that between 1837 and 1858 Weston and the surrounding area saw nine churches organized? Salem Christian Church organized in Dec. 1837; the Presbyterian Church founded in August 1842; land for the Pleasant Ridge Church was deeded in May 1844; June 1844 saw the cornerstone laid for the Holy Trinity Catholic Church; Oct 1; Flintlock Primitive Church land was deeded April 20, 1846; the German Methodist Church organized on Jan. 4, 1847; July 1853 the Baptist Church was founded in Weston; Sept .1853 Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church was dedicated; and July of 1858 the Episcopalian Church was finished and dedicated the following year in Aug.

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. . . that Dr. Brian L. Bartholomew opened his Chiropractic office in Weston in October of 1962? He was a graduate of Cleveland Chiropractic College and a veteran of the Korean conflict.

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Be miserable. Or motivate yourself. Whatever has to be done, it's always your choice. *Wayne Dyer*

## Weston Authors Receive Recognition

As more authors appeared on the horizon in Weston, the Weston Historical Museum and the Weston Branch of the Mid-Continent Library system thought it was time to give them some recognition. Thus it was in mid-October that the library staff took possession of a number of books that the museum had gathered together. They then fixed a section within the library to prominently display the books.

Among the authors from Weston who are represented on the shelves are the late W.R. "Tuck" Tucker, Patricia Pirtle, Judy Juergens, Fred Chiaventone, Marie Stutterheim, the late Sandy Miller, T. J. Beach, Jerry Hobbs, Jim Pepper, the late Lorene Goodpaster and Carolyn Larsen.

The books can be checked out by patrons, but will remain with the Weston Branch of the library rather than going out into the entire system.

If you are interested in purchasing them as gifts or for yourself, the Museum has copies of most of them for sale in our Nostalgia Store, or through our website.

## We Need Volunteers

The Museum is starting its "season" of reorganizing and replacing displays. We will concentrate on revamping permanent cases and changing out a few to keep our Museum fresh for visitors.

If you have an hour or two, generally on Monday or Tuesday, the Museum would really appreciate your help. Just call Carolyn or Barb at the Museum, 816-386-2977.

### *The Nostalgia Store*

at the Weston Historical Museum

New & Used Books

• Cookbooks • Paper Dolls •  
Souvenir Publications • Prints

Check us out through our website:  
[www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org)



## Mystery Corner

The above photograph was given to us by Mrs. Ruth Marr. Ruth does not recognize the church or the people in the photo, but we are wondering if any of our readers might recognize anyone or at least the church?

It appears to be either a dedication or an anniversary of the church, and we estimate the timing around the turn of the 19th century, but even that is not certain. Can you help us?

## Donations for Quilt Restoration Add Up

Donations for the restoration and preservation of the World War I quilt continue to come in. Among those not mentioned in the last newsletter are donations from Dennis and Barb Fulk, Mary Sue Winneke, Allison Roberts and family, Karl and Marlys Hougland, Brent Hudson, Mike and Ruth Marr and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Rowland.

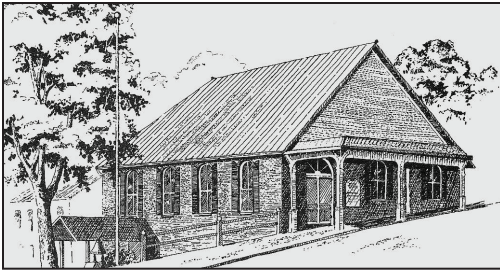
Readers will be happy to note that this puts us only \$455.00 from our intended goal of \$1400.00. The museum officers and staff would like to express their thanks to all of you for your wonderful support and help.

At near "press time" for the newsletter, we have learned that an anonymous donor gave a very large amount to help put the fund over the top. Our special thanks to our friend and supporter, whoever she/he may be for a generous spirit.

## A 1892 Editorial From The Weston Chronicle

"The carrying of concealed weapons by "respectable" men is one of the chief obstacles in the way of the prevention of their being carried by criminals. In this case they create the very danger they claim renders it necessary to go armed. If no man carried a revolver unless he had criminal intentions, or were duly licensed to do so by the police authorities, the police could deal with the possessors of weapons more vigorously, and better enforce the law against carrying them. Not only in this, in many other things, respectability is responsible for much that is not respectable by failure to draw a sufficiently distinct line of divisions."

Seems even back in the 1800's there was a difference of opinion over gun carrying.



**WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

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Weston, Missouri 64098

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“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is  
a mystery and today is a gift; that’s  
why they call it the present.”

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

*To awaken each morning with a smile brightening my face,  
to greet the day with reverence for the opportunities it contains;  
to approach my work with a clean mind;  
to hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things,  
the Ultimate Purpose toward which I am working;  
to meet men and women with laughter on my lips and  
love in my heart;  
to be gentle, kind and courteous through all the hours;  
to approach the night with weariness that ever woos sleep and  
the joy that comes from work well done  
--this is how I desire to waste wisely my days.*



*Thomas Dreier*

**Happy 2014 to all our readers.  
May you, too, “waste wisely” your days in this New Year.**