

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

APRIL ~ MAY ~ JUNE 2016

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

May Filled With Special Days, Weeks

Besides Mother's Day and Memorial Day, there are many other dates that need to be remembered during the lovely month of May. Those include National Nurses Week May 6-12; National Firefighters Day May 4; and May 15-21 is National Police Week, as well as National EMS Week.

In Weston, we have many who should be recognized for their service through the years.

Admittedly, these lists are incomplete but all have been faithful volunteers and have served Weston, some individuals in several capacities.

Volunteer Firefighters

Bob Baker	David Knox
C.A. Bless	David Lancaster
Jimmie Burrow	Thomas Larsen
Kenny Clemens	Floyd Liberty
Larry Clemens	Bob Marriott
J. P. Coldren	Andy Meyer
Kelly Dunkel	Donald Pepper
Raymond Dydell	Emmet Riley
Jeff Elsea	Charlie Sebus
KC Gladstone	Mark Seymour
Bill Hewitson	David Shipman
Burton Hiatt	L. R. Vaughn
Dickie Hill	Kent Weigman
Jeff Keogh	Donald Wilson
Bob Kottman	Ted Wilson

Nurses from Weston

Linsay Atchison	Victoria Miller
Barbara Bopp	Doris Nower
Mary Ester	Karen Payne
Virginia Faris	Lyn Pepper
Dee Farnan	Kent Stelljes*
Joan Keogh	Phyllis Warder
Rita Keogh	Marsha West
Shannon Miller	

*Kent Stelljes is a Life Flight Nurse and present Mayor of Weston.



COURTESY OF ROBERT L. HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

Pumper 54 sits in front of the West Platte Fire Station, located at the northeast edge of Weston. The building was completed in 2011.

HELP, Inc.

Started in 1974, HELP, Inc. took the place of the local mortician and neighboring towns as the primary ambulance service for Weston and surrounding area. It was staffed by an all-volunteer group who trained at first aid, then as Emergency Medical Technicians and even some as Paramedics.

HELP, Inc. disbanded once the West Platte Fire Protection District took effect. At first volunteers continued to man the ambulance and fire department, slowly transitioning to a fully trained and paid staff.

In 2011, an 11,000 sq. ft. station was completed on the edge of town to house a complement of seven pumpers, tankers, brushes and ambulance. The one-story station includes four drive-through bays, kitchen, dining room, individual sleeping rooms, showers, day room, fitness and office space.

Larry Clemens was Crew Chief of HELP for 15 years. Lynn Johnson is the current WPPFD Chief. Among the volunteers over the years were:

Daisy Beaver	Bill Clements
John Bless	Madie Clements
Cathy Bosch	Ruth Ann De Selms
Jim Bosch	Dennis Fulk
Lyle Buckler	KC Gladstone
Phil Carter	Judy Graves
Larry Clemens	Carl Harper

(Continued on page 2)

Special Days . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Sue McSherry Hewitt	Susie Rice
Rick Hudson	Jean Robertson
Lynn Jordan Johnson	Tauy Hellebuyck Scott
Philip Johnson	Kathy Shipman
Jenny Joiner	Linda Smither
John D. Jordan	Janice Southward
Leslie Jordan	Pat Stampfel
David Knox	Francie Stoner
David Lancaster	Joe Taloff
Terry Large	Fern Thompson
Carolyn Larsen	L.R. Vaughn
Jack McGray	Ed Voss
Nancy McGray	Bill Warder
Kip McGrath	Phyllis Warder
Fred Moret	Judy Werner
Gary Norris	Ray Werner
Dennis O'Dell	Marsha West
Donald Pepper	Donald Wilson
Judy Clemens Peterson	Ted Wilson
Tim Purvis	Larry Winfrey
Karl Rice	Ron Wisely



COURTESY OF THE WESTON CHRONICLE

Nancy Honerkamp, a 13-year veteran of the Weston Police Department, was honored upon her retirement in March 2016 by Mayor Kent Stelljes and the council.



In March 1983, the Weston Chapter of the Veteran of Foreign Wars presented HELP, Inc. with a commendation for services to the community. The first Post's first Commander, Charlie Sebus, made the presentation, along with current Post Commander Tom Pendergrast. Larry Clemens, HELP, Inc.'s President accepted the certificate.

Weston Police Department

Beginning with its creation in 1837, citizens have been protected by night watchmen, marshals and police officers.

In 1970, the office of Police Chief was held by Harlen Carter, who also served as the last City Marshal.

After a tumultuous period in the late 1970's and early 1980's, we have had two chiefs since 1982, Larry Winfrey and Terry Blanton.

Among those who have served on the force are:

Terry Blanton*	Lynn Jordan Johnson
John Bless	Kay Jones
Dennis Boer*	John D. Jordan
Albert Boltz	Kasey Keeseman
John Bowler*	George Kennedy*
Robert Boydston*	David Lancaster
Todd Bryant	Tom McGee*
Harlen Carter*	Steve McClure
Edgar Chadwick*	Cory McDonald
Kelley Clark	Kip McGrath
Larry Clemens	Fred Moret
Ron Ferrante	Dennis O'Dell
Kenny Francis*	Bill Perkins*
Jeannie Gatewood	Tim Purvis
James Glover*	Carl Rutherford**
Pat Graham	Joann Stewart
Fred Green	Tom Taulbee
Carl Harper**	Sam Taylor**
Gary Hartman	Donavan Wilkinson
Micah Holan	Larry Winfrey*
Nancy Honerkamp	Larry Winter

(*Indicates Police Chief. ** Denotes Acting Chief. Harlen Carter was City Marshal until 1972, when he became Weston's first Police Chief.)

The Museum would appreciate names of any others who may have served in any of these groups over the years.

Characters of Weston

Progressive Mayor Brought Much Change to City

Martin Richard Waggoner arrived in Weston in February 1898, opening a jewelry store on the lower east side of Main Street. After a few years, M.R., as he was known, left the business to begin work as the manager of Kelly's Saloon where he introduced some innovative changes.

Following a short courtship, M.R. and Miss Emma Quinley of Weston were married on January 2, 1910. Their first son, George Richard, was born in December 1910. The couple lost him at the tender age of two. Their second child, Martin Richard, Jr. was born several years later and survived the years of childhood.

Waggoner announced he was running for Mayor in the spring of 1921. He won the election and thus began twelve years of great change in the city of Weston. A gentle man of large stature, Mayor Waggoner was often seen in town in his black suit, gold watch and chain and sporting a wide-brimmed hat which he wore everywhere, despite what he might be doing.

Following a few months of orienting himself, M.R. enthusiastically promoted "Dollar Days" for Weston. Merchants and citizens alike were pleased with the results. Waggoner worked with the editor of the local newspaper to urge citizens to clean up the streets and empty lots in and around the town.

In 1926 it became apparent to everyone that the town desperately needed paved streets. With a population of about 1,000 citizens, Mayor Waggoner realized the assessed valuation of the city would not bring in enough funds to pay for the contractors' required costs. So he began investigating prices for the machinery that would be necessary for such work.

With the backing of the council, he purchased electric drills, a rock crusher, a concrete mixer and asphalt tanks. By hiring good laborers, paying good wages and demanding good service, M.R. was able to save the Weston taxpayers hundreds of dollars. When he found it necessary, he donned work clothes along with his black hat and turned his hand at mixing cement, crushing rocks or whatever chore that was needed.

During the next few years the Mayor and crew resurfaced every one of the old macadam streets with paving. He also inaugurated a system for keeping the streets clean and repaired.

Again, Waggoner personally helped when a bridge needed to be built on Thomas Street. Constructed in 1926, the bridge stood for 80 years, finally being demolished in 2006 to make way for a broader structure.

Waggoner supervised the laying of several blocks of water mains; a White Way containing 50 poles; and management of the municipal water works. He also reduced the city's indebtedness by over \$20,000.

Hoping to bring more monies into the city coffers, Mayor Waggoner instituted the first Tobacco Show. These shows continued into the late 1950's and brought in not only money to the city finances but lots of fun and entertainment for the Weston citizenry, as well as to those from neighboring towns.

M.R. had other talents, such as embroidering and sewing expertly. His wife said he could bake a batch of biscuits as good as those from the best cook in town. However, his greatest talent was his artistry with pen and ink. He would often decorate his letters with some clever cartoon or drawing relevant to the subject he was addressing.

Waggoner died in December 1937 and was buried in Laurel Hill near his son, George.

Celebrated Pooch



Weston had its own 'famous' dog. Hollywood had its "Lassie", television had "Rin Tin Tin" and Weston had Bennie Kelly.

Bennie was a mutt owned by Frank Kelly and was often seen dressed in a bowler hat and a vest for special occasions.

In this photograph, he was dressed up and sitting atop a huge pile of snow in early March 1912, outside the St. George Hotel.

Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

An article on the front page of The Weston Chronicle June 23, 1961 read: "The Bank of Weston will greet friends on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at their all new modern building.

For the past three months they have been housed temporarily in the Waggoner building on Main street while their new home has undergone a complete remodeling. From the basement to the second floor, the building has been renovated.

A new vault was built, the old front torn out and replaced by the plate glass window covered with scroll bricks to let in the light, and full glass doors.

It has all been repainted, new flooring laid, new banking furniture and fixtures added."

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Sometime in 1917 this article was found in the local newspaper: "Geo. Woolworth, aged 45, died at his home in Kansas City on Friday. His father, by the same name, lived in Weston and operated the Perry Flour Mill in 1886 for a short time. His son attended the Weston school during that period."

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News of the brewery's closing came in an article printed in 1918: "The government has ruled that all liquor manufacture shall cease during the war. The Royal Brewery closed down Monday at nine o'clock and that night the curfew was blown for the last time. It was when Mr. A.F. Walruff was in charge; he was also town Mayor, that the Fire Dept. was organized and many needed improvements were added to the safety and protection of the town.

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In 1929 the local paper reported: "M.R. Waggoner purchased, under contract to the Laurel Hill Association, a plot of ground containing two and one-half acres of ground just west of the Laurel Hill Cemetery, known as the old Besinger and Quinley plots. The old George Quinley home stands on part of the ground.

Many folks would still like to have lots in Laurel Hill, partly because of its accessibility by motor or walking, and because of the sentiment attached to it."

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Found in the "Crackin' Corn" column of *The Weston Chronicle* dated January 1, 1969: "Another writer from Kansas City, L.J. Hensley, sent the



Jail Break "Attempt"

As we told readers early last year, the former police department building on Thomas Street is in the process of being transformed into a public restroom.

Susan Grinlinton and Mary Jo Heidrick, both volunteers at the Museum, along with Nan Taylor, former art teacher at West Platte High School, created the mural above.

Work is expected to be completed by the Applefest this fall.

following to "Speaking the Public Mind" in the *Kansas City Star*, Monday, and we liked it so much. . .we borrowed it—

For one fleeting moment in the
cosmic infinity of time,
Mankind, in the form of three
American Astronauts,
Reached out its tiny hand,
Like an infant to its father,
And grasped the little finger of
God, and God smiled."

The Nostalgia Store

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www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org

Did You Know. . .

. . . that Governor Guy Park was married to a Weston woman? Her name was Elenora Gabbert. Guy Park was from Platte City.

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. . . that a graduate of West Platte became a concert pianist? Rosemary Plummer performed all over the country. In the late 1990's she performed in Carnegie Hall in New York.

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. . . that Weston had its own movie theater? It was owned and managed by a number of individuals through the years. However, in 1957-1958 five seniors from West Platte ran the theater. They were Tom Bunge, L.R. Vaughn, Gary Thomas, Kermit Horseman and Carolyn Bless.

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. . . that Weston had two upstanding citizens arrested during the Civil War, charged with treason and held at Fort Leavenworth? One was George Dye who was the manager of the St. George Hotel. He was later released.

Dr. William Shortridge was brought up on charges because he doctored both the Union and Confederate soldiers. After several months he was sent home and charges were dropped. His wife was Julianna McAdow, the daughter of another doctor, Dr. Sam McAdow.

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. . . that farm tractors were counted in 1920? Platte County boasted the largest number of tractors in the state of Missouri that year.

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. . . that Benjamin Franklin Murdock of Weston, was one to be considered an "unreconstructed rebel?" Murdock served under Capt. James Syn-namon (also of Weston). He attended as many funerals of Confederate in the area that he could, each time taking a small Confederate flag to place on the grave. At his death he was buried in his Confederate uniform, holding a Confederate flag.

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. . . that a center-wheeler (steamboat) was built in Farley? The year was 1872 and it was owned by Mr. T.W. Noland. At its christening it was named the "Platte Valley."

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. . . that Theodore Lentz, Sr. was captured and imprisoned during the Civil War? Somewhat strange about it was that Lentz, who was from the Farley area, was a civilian. He was not a soldier on either

## Reader Adds to Knowledge On "Undersung" Women Inventors

Thanks to Mrs. Zelda (Mel) Reeber we have a few more women who were inventors, but mostly forgotten.

Matilda Joslyn Gage, a social activist and suffragist delivered an address to the suffrage convention in Rochester, New York in 1852, about the inventions and innovations of women through the ages for which they received no credit or recognition. Ms. Gage later wrote a book entitled *Woman as Inventor*.



Catharine Littlefield Greene was actually the inventor of the cotton gin. Once the idea was conceived and a draft of the gin was done, she took it to Eli Whitney, a machinist to fabricate for her. She apparently believed that the patent office did not accept patent applications from women so she did not pursue that idea. (This was often true for many years). Whitney, of course, did patent it and the rest is history.



Ernestine Potowski Rose invented a room deodorizer. Having run away from Poland to avoid an arranged marriage, she used royalties from her invention to sustain herself in Germany, then England. Married to William Rose, the couple immigrated to the US, where she continued to be an outspoken social activist and suffragette.



In 1869 she cofounded, with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the National Woman Suffrage Association.

side of the war. Nevertheless, the Confederates captured him as he was riding along on his horse-drawn wagon.

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. . . that there existed a Rumpel Cooperage Co.? It was located in Iatan, MO and the workers went out on strike Monday, Nov. 14, 1907. They wanted more than the 6 cents per barrel they were getting and asked instead for 7 cents. The next day they got the raise.

Weston Historical Museum Members

April 2016

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First Little Free Library Installed

The Weston Museum is honored to be the location of Weston’s very first Little Free Library! We feel the placement is quite appropriate as Weston’s Public Library shared the top floor of the Museum for many years. The following release was published in April of this year.

“West Platte High School is thrilled to announce that we have successfully installed Weston’s first Little Free Library, located at the southwest corner of the Weston Historical Museum.

“The students in Mrs. Penrod’s Novel class have been working on this project to promote literacy in our community.

“What are Little Free Libraries? Little Free Libraries are hand-crafted structures filled with constantly changing collections of books donated and shared by people of all ages and backgrounds. They don’t require library cards or late fines, don’t insist that patrons whisper or stay quiet, and don’t mind if you do not return a book.

“People around the world have embraced the



idea of Little Free Libraries. There are over 36,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and 70 countries. Please stop by and take a book, or leave a book for some other lucky readers!”

Looking for Something to Do?

Volunteers are always welcome on “Work Day Mondays,” when we sort, file and label items. Substitute hostesses are also welcomed throughout the season. If interested call 386-2977.

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A Non-Profit Corporation for the Preservation of Historic Information.

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*"The farther backward
you can look, the farther
forward you are likely to
see."*

Winston S. Churchill

? **mystery corner**

The home pictured here is at the south end of Washington Street, in front of the home of L.R. and Sue Vaughn.

Michael Lynch and her mother Margaret Snyder, (who was the sister of 6th District Representative William R. Hull, Jr.) lived here back in the 1950s.

We know Betty and George Z. (Sonny) Hull, Jr. Hull lived in the house for several years in the early 60's, as did Cathy and Jim Bosch in the mid 70's.

The house had beautiful wood floors, which unfortunately have deteriorated. The dry laid rock wall was a hallmark of Weston craftsmanship.

Left empty for many years, it is again on the real estate market. Does anyone know any more about the history of this home; or perhaps any other folks who called it home?

If you know anything that will help us with more knowledge of this home please



call the museum, 816-386-2977 or send us an email with your information. Thank you for your help.

And if you know anyone who would be interested in restoring this house to its former glory, contact Dan Ovaitt at Reece Nichols Weston Bend.