

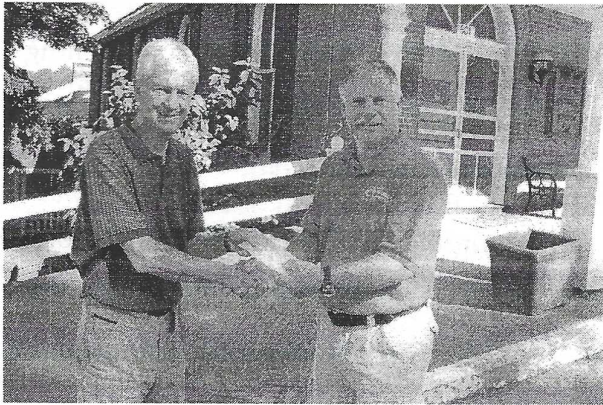
MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

JULY ~ AUGUST ~ SEPTEMBER 2010

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

Museum Kicks off 50 Years/ \$50,000 Fund Campaign



Carl Felling accepts a check for \$2,500 from David Knox, president of the Weston Jaycees, to help jump start the 50 Years/\$50,000 fundraising drive.

The Museum officially kicked off its fundraising plan, which was developed by our late President Diza Eskridge, to celebrate our 50th year with a push to raise \$50,000.

The first funds came from the Trivia Night and brought in \$750.00.

On Monday, August 16, 2010, The Weston Jaycees' President David Knox met with Museum President Carl Felling and Director, Ann Saugstad to present them with a donation in the form of a check worth \$2,500.

The \$50,000 will go to pay for much-needed repairs to the museum. One job on the list, was a new roof. The Amish company, L&M Construction from Jamesport, did the standing seam metal roof work. The work was finished last week.

The next job of repair is the present portico, which has a great deal of dry rot in the structure. There is also a need for repairs to the north property rock wall. Other things needing

to be done are the replacement of the steps down into the north yard and some painting.

It has only been in the last year or two that problems with the roof, wall, portico, etc. have begun to show up. Since little has needed doing for the past 50 years, we at the museum are hopeful that the fund of \$50,000 will take care of the repairs and leave some to help defray costs of keeping the doors open for free.

Board members, the general membership, and many others will soon be receiving letters asking for *your* help in raising the necessary funds. You will also find a copy of such a letter in this newsletter.

Your help with the 50/50 Fundraiser is greatly encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you.

Death of Diza Eskridge Is Second Museum Loss

The Museum and the community at large suffered an immense loss June 29th with the unexpected death of Museum President Diza A. Pepper. Her predecessor, Marian Gaskill, passed away this past spring.

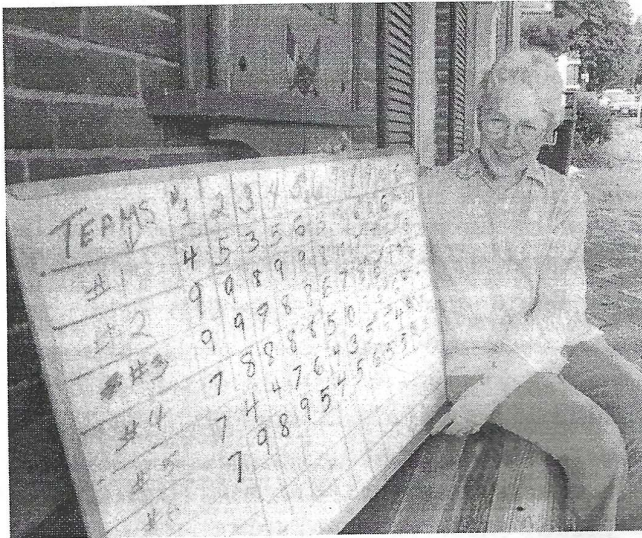
At an emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees, Vice-President Carl Felling was chosen to take over the office. A new election for Board members will be held at the November annual dinner.

Diza was a former Platte County Commissioner and economic consultant for the City of Weston. Following her parents' deaths, Diza ran the family business, the Weston Elevator.

Surviving are her aunt, Mrs. Percy Frances Schindler and cousins Maury Jo Corkins, and Patrick and Wesley Browning who resided with her at the time of her death.

Save the Date:

Sunday, November 14, 2010 is the date for the Annual Museum Trustees Dinner. It will be held at the Weston Methodist Church, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Cost per person is \$20.00. Please watch for your registration form in the mail.



Carolyn Larsen shows off the tally board of the Trivia Night held in late June. The fundraiser brought in \$750 for the 50 Years/\$50,000 Campaign.

Museum Trivia Night Well Attended Despite Heat

The Museum's first Trivia Night, held in late June, was a great success despite the hot temperature. Trivia Night was also the first event in the museum's 50th Anniversary Fund Raising.

Tables were covered in various colors of tablecloths and each table had a centerpiece that displayed poker chips, dice, playing cards and other game pieces. These were made by Ms. Jessica Larsen.

Approximately fifty contestants, officials and other individuals enjoyed the fun. Each team brought their own snacks and it was noticed, that in some cases, there were some rather elaborate and very tasty snacks brought by the teams. A few even looked as though

they had been brought and arranged by the finest of restaurants.

Five teams of six and one team with eight individuals vied for top honors. Zim Hull's team won first place with Sally Collier's team coming in a close second.

Questions included Weston history, sports, identities of presidents, and geographical sites, Jelly Bellies, music, movies and TV sitcoms. The teams enjoyed a bit of friendly rivalry as well as some bantering with the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Glenn Benner.

Diza Eskridge, Ruth Marr and Ann Saugstad were judges for the game. Carl Felling and Carolyn Larsen were scorekeepers.

After expenses were subtracted, it was found that the Trivia Night gave the 50th Anniversary Fund the sum of \$750.

We thank all the contestants and those who helped to make the evening a great success and a lot of fun.

Another Trivia Night is planned for an evening in February of 2011. Watch for further news about this fun evening.

Many Photographs Document Weston

Due to a photo album-making spree by three sisters here in Weston, the museum has become the recipient of many photos that document the town.

All of these photographs and more came from negatives found when Ruth Mary Clemens, Barbara Bless and Carolyn Larsen started a project to "finally do something with all the family pictures and negatives". They have just finished the project, having made 32 family photo albums for their siblings, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Many of these photos date back to the early 1950's, some going back into the 1920's and '30's as well. Still a few are dated around the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Some show homes and downtown buildings that no longer exist. Others show current buildings when other businesses were inside.

There are photos of old fire trucks and old fire drills; photos of streets before they were paved, and photos of a car with a Weston Tobacco Show sign on top that was used in a caravan through neighboring towns to advertise the coming event.

Other photos show the Weston Library where it once resided in the Hotel Weston and Dorothy's Beauty Shop that also resided within the Hotel.

Another photo shows part of the C.C. Graves home at the corner of Washington and Gay streets. That same photo show that the streets were not paved at the time and it also shows the Doran home which later became the Unmessig home and is now a Bed and Breakfast owned by the Emery family. The Weston Academy with its' tall cupola also appears in the picture.

The ladies had all the negatives printed and felt they should be added to the Museum's assets. At the present time these photos are being catalogued and put in the correct files.

More Items Being Donated to Museum

In recent weeks the museum has been again gifted with several items.

Mrs. Maxine McClurg brought us the minute book from the original Weston Garden Club. The minutes begin in 1947 and end when the club disbanded in 2004. It is filled with many names of the women and men, who belonged to the Garden Club through the years as well as the many programs and projects they had. We are pleased to have it.

Mrs. Virginia Hall gave us a box full of newspaper clippings she found at a local estate auction. It includes obituaries, weddings and many other articles of interest dating from about the 1920's up to about 1985. Some of these articles will help fill in family genealogies we have at the museum.

Mr. Donald Brandon, a very kind and young eighty years old gentleman from Smithville has donated a walnut pie 'safe' with

its original tin. He has also provided us with the history of the item: it came down through the Beisinger family and was made about 1840 by a Mr. Schmidt, who also made caskets here in Weston for a number of years.

Mr. Marshall Hill has donated the first barber chair his father bought when he set up business in Weston. Mr. Troy Hill was instrumental in starting the Christian Assembly Church and then went to barber school. He had a large family to support, one of the children being Marshall who is a graduate of West Platte. The chair still works and along with it, Marshall gave us some original razors, a shaving soap cup and several other items.

At the present time, we are busy setting up a "barber shop" within your museum.

Mrs. Rita Keogh dropped in one day recently with a number of photographs from the Brill family and other relatives. The items are currently being catalogued and put into appropriate family files

Ms. Suzy Hardesty also stopped by recently to bring us a number of photographs. Many of them were of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mayo Hardesty. There are also a few of the Hardesty brothers: Egbert, John, Mayo and Shortridge. Among more of the photos are pictures of school children in the early 1900's as well as a few in the 1950's. We are busy cataloging in many of these items and getting ready for display of them.

We thank each and every one of these donors for their generosity in thinking of us as a place for these items to go rather than sell them or throw them away.

Come in and see the new items donated; they will prove to be of interest to many.

Bertha's Bits and Pieces From the Morgue

According to *The Weston Chronicle* May 5, 1922, Weston saw its first cement street in town that week. Later in 1924, more streets were paved in cement. Sidewalks (cemented type) came along about 1926.

* * * *

We find in the issue of March 13, 1964: "On March 6, the Brownie Scouts met in their regular meeting place for investiture ceremonies. Mrs. Robert Kottman and Mrs. Donald McAdow conducted the ceremonies. Following the services, the Brownies served punch and cookies to the parents in attendance.

Brownie Scouts are Lana Sue Taulbee, Diane Kottman, Rhonda Kottman, Anita Hall, Cathy Searcy, Cindy Schaback, Debra Graves, Annette Schumacher, Barbara Bless, Sandra Gorham, Ruth Ann Faris, Sandra Burns, Linda Caldwell, Penny Calvert, Jo Leea Collison, Karen Webb and Margaret Ann Spratt.

Ruth and Leann Anderson will receive their Brownie pins next week."

* * * *

The issue of July 7, 1936 "One of the reasons the teaching of 'professor' J.H. Turner made such a lasting impression on his pupils during his ten-year tenure as High School superintendent in Weston, was the fact that he always insisted that they study their mistakes.

"To facilitate this, he always returned examination papers with the admonition that the students study the questions and answers upon which his score was not perfect to the end that the error would be impressed upon his mind and never made again.

"Apropos this promise, Mr. Turner personally delivered three exam papers upon which he had failed to make good his promise. They were written thirty-five years ago, in May 1901. Two were the property of Dr. L.C. Calvert, an algebra and a history paper.

"The other paper was an algebra exam of the same year, belonging to Irene Guthrie Loyles. Mr. Turner could not account for his dilatory return of the papers, but was glad his mother had preserved them all these years. She had them filed away on the top of an old walnut bureau, recently uncovered in the remodeling of the Turner home on Blackhawk Street."

* * * *

According to the November 16, 1924 issue of the local newspaper, Weigman & Son's Paint

Company moved from the basement of the old Presbyterian Church to the Doppler building on West Market Street.

* * * *

In 1966 there appeared in *The Weston Chronicle* an article about the culture and value of black walnut trees.

In it we learned that Missouri supplies approximately 70% of the world's black walnuts. The dark brown shell of a walnut is so hard that when it's pulverized it can be used to seal rock fractures in oil well drilling, to clean jet engines and for water filtration.

Unlike English walnuts that are often seen in large pieces and used on top of brownies, cakes, etc., black walnuts are packaged in small pieces because the nut must be crushed between rollers to get through the extremely hard shell.

It takes approximately one and a half pounds of unshelled black walnuts to make one cup of nutmeats.

Black walnuts are not just for eating, though they are delicious by themselves and in various breads, cakes and other dishes, they are used in abrasive cleaners and polish or in the cosmetic and oil industry.

Black walnuts, unlike pecans, English walnuts and other kinds of nuts, have oil in the shell that stains the hand and fingers. It may take a while to wear or wash away, as many of you may know if you have ever worked at shelling the nuts.

* * * *

The area known as Woodruff once had a population of 150 individuals. The small village shipped hogs and cattle on the Maple Leaf Railroad in to Kansas City and other places.

There existed then, in 1899, a blacksmith shop, a grain elevator, drug store, about 50 residences and a general store. It also boasted a telegraph and a Wells Fargo Express.

Woodruff is located in the extreme northeast corner of Weston Township, 13 miles north of Leavenworth and 5 miles east Weston.

Diza Eskridge's Loss Leaves Many Grieving



Diza Eskridge was my friend from a young age until her unexpected death June 29th of this year. For long periods of time as our lives moved in different directions we would not see each other, but then we would 'bump' into each other and it was as though we had just seen each other the day before. We talked about husbands, children, jobs, parents, different institutions or clubs we were involved in at the time. One summer we drove back and forth together to St. Joseph to attend college classes, both going for further education beyond her BA, my BS degree.

We laughed over the ownership of two dogs that had been in the same litter and how unbelievably dumb they truly were.

We cried together over the death of her son, Jonathan, who was a classmate of my youngest son. We often talked of the amusing things we remembered about 'Jon-Jon'.

Diza was a Democrat, I was something of an Independent and we did not always see eye-to-eye, but were always honest with each other and agreed to disagree without rancor.

I loved listening to the stories about all her travels with her college friends and the 'travel group' and their many escapades and she encouraged me in my writing.

I admired her courage, her grace under pressure and her sense of style. She laughed at my little 'rebellions' and frequently supported them.

Diza had a sense of humor that was filled with warmth and generosity. She was a great hostess and always made you feel 'at home'.

She worked hard for underprivileged children from birth to adulthood. She contributed to many charities and did hands on work for them, too. Diza believed if you were on a board of any kind, then you should work on that

board. Diza did much good that few know about.

Her death opened a large hole in our hearts, in our community and at the museum.

We will continue on with our lives, our work, and the museum because that is what Diza would do, and did in her own life. But, a little bit of light, joy and drive will be missing from our lives without Diza at the helm.

I hope that her robe (if one wears such in heaven) is one designed by Ralph Lauren and that she has all the necessary accessories to delight her heart. Meet you near the pink trunk, Diza!

Did You Know . . .

... *that* an orange tree once grew quite hardily in Weston? Belonging to Mr. Lee Murphy, the tree was fifty years old in 1956. Murphy's nine children grew up with that tree and ate fruit from it.

... *that* his granddaughter and grandson contested the will of Abner Whitely, of Weston? Mr. Whitely was the father of Mrs. O.G. Watson and upon his death in 1908 his wealth was estimated at over a million dollars. He was 92-years-old at that time, but two years prior to his death, he wrote two of his grandchildren out of his will.

It seems that in 1906 he saw his granddaughter, Goldie Cole, and his grandson, W.A. Whitely, riding to a theater in Kansas City. She had come in for a visit and her brother took her to the theater in a hired carriage, with flowers and all.

Abner saw this all as he was waiting for a streetcar to take him to his boarding house. The extravagance of his grandchildren amazed him and he immediately decided they should have none of his wealth. In 1913, the court sustained his decision, refusing to break the will, and the two plaintiffs received nothing.

... *that* Capt. Samuel E. Porter, former graduate of West Platte, was nominated and received the award for Outstanding Instructor of Class 67-FH during a Dining-In held in the

Officer's Mess in July 1967? He was nominated three other times for this award given by the Mesa, Ariz., Chamber of Commerce.

Sam's Air Force career began with the Air Force Systems Command at Kirkland, AFB, N.M. in 1963. Captain Porter and his twin sister, Sarah, were from Farley, MO.

... *that* an Edgerton Doctor was one of several medical men completing 50 years of practice in 1964? Dr. John A. Robinson was the doctor and he was recognized for his many years of service by and at the Missouri Medical Society meeting that year.

... *that* Mrs. Rose Riley was the oldest member present at the laying of the cornerstone at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church? It was in June of 1912 and the lady was 92 at the time. She and Mrs. Mary Riley lived together in the now demolished home at the corner of Market and Leavenworth Rd. In 1932, Mrs. Mary Riley finished a Rose Garden quilt with 5,560 pieces in it.

... *that* Mrs. Felix Blakely Brown was a kinswoman of Mrs. Missouri Tennessee Turner? She was also the mother of a deputy County Clerk and a grandmother of a state representative. She died in Leavenworth at the age of 90 in November 1938.

... *that* Mrs. Nancy Brown was a member of the graduating class of 1967? She was the mother of seven children, six of whom were enrolled in the District schools at the time she was finishing her High School work. Nancy was on the Honor Roll both semesters of her senior year and kept up with her household duties as well.

Neighbors and friends, who admired her tenacity, joined in together to present her with a bouquet of roses as she walked across the platform to receive her well-earned diploma.

... *that* putting on weight around the middle for gentlemen, was supposed to be a sign of his prosperity? This was true in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Many a gentleman ate

heavily and also imbibed each evening a scotch or two in order to look as prosperous as he was in fact.

Come to Weston High School

(The following is from the September 2, 1915 issue of The Weston Chronicle.)

Boys and Girls who live in the country and who are prepared to do high school work are cordially invited to enter Weston High School.

Last year 40 out of a total of 83 were non-resident; in the last three years more than a hundred boys and girls from out of town have taken advantage of the opportunities offered here, some coming as far as Linn and Bates counties.

The Weston High School offers the advantages of a large, well equipped building; a force of five able teachers; a varied course of study; live and safe athletics; an earnest and progressive school spirit; a five years' course approved by the University; 24 units accredited work.

The State Teachers-Training Course offers excellent opportunities to those who wish to prepare for teaching. Graduates of other high schools are invited to come to Weston and take this course or seek higher educational advantages.

Tuition is \$3.00 per month, payable two months in advance. The expenses of maintaining high schools have risen greatly in the last few years and the advantages offered by our schools are greater than ever before. It cost the Weston district \$36.26 last year for every student enrolled in our high school. Thus the tuition fee of \$27.00 per year is several dollars below the cost per student to the district.

School will begin Monday, Sept. 6th. It will be to the advantage of students to come to the High school the first day and make all arrangements for regular work which begins on Tuesday.

See me for particulars,

D.E. MOTHERSEAD, Supt.

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 266

601 MAIN STREET

WESTON, MISSOURI 64098

A Non-profit Corporation for the Preservation of Historic Information

Dear Weston residents and friends:

Weston is a community with a long list of achievements that includes the Weston Historical Museum.

Ask a grade school child about their favorite display and they'll tell you with great enthusiasm about the bear fur they got to touch, the Indian moccasins, the old tools or the pretty and odd looking dolls. Teachers will describe how thoughtful high school students get as they contemplate a world without technology. Scholars will tell you they found information not available anywhere else in the world about the Missouri River and families looking for their history will express how poignant it is to read first hand accounts of their ancestors.

It is vital to preserve our valuable community asset and **the conservative Band-Aid approach to major building repairs for the past 50 years is no longer an option.** The roof must be replaced to protect the artifacts. The portico needs extensive repair for the safety of volunteers and visitors. Basic painting and upkeep projects are required. The cost of the improvements will be approximately \$50,000.

The 50th anniversary of the museum brings us to a "Fifty-Fifty" or "Fifty years and \$50,000" campaign that will last one year from June, 2010 through June, 2011.

Money donations are critical. It is also important for everyone who can to support the effort in any possible way... from participating in fund raising events to reminding others how important the museum is to our community and beyond.

Please make a monetary donation if you can. A journal will be prepared to be on display in the museum listing only the names of donors. When the next major capital improvement campaign takes place... in 2060... museum supporters will know whom to thank for their 100 year old museum!

Respectfully,

Weston Historical Museum Trustees and Volunteers

P.S. - Fifty years ago the Weston citizens donated time, artifacts and money to make the museum a reality. It's our turn. A donation of any size will help. If 1,000 people donate an average of \$50.00, the goal will be achieved. Please help and give what you can.

Cut and return with donation

PLEASE RESPOND BY OCTOBER 15, 2010

Donation 2010 _____ Check To: Weston Historical Museum

You may pledge an additional amount in 2011. (Tax deduction for two years)

Pledge 2011 _____ Check to be mailed January 2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

Spend one afternoon at the museum and you'll hear visitors exclaim over the scope of the museum, the outstanding displays and the significant fact that it is free admission. Students, families on budgets, wandering tourists... everyone can visit, enjoy and learn.



WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

P.O. Box 266
601 Main Street
Weston, Missouri 64098

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

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Permit No. 7

Mr and Mrs Carl Felling
904 Blackhawk Street
Weston, MO 64098

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

Unknown