

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

JULY ~ AUGUST ~ SEPTEMBER 2011

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

Thanks for Making 50/50 Campaign a Success

Thanks to our many friends, members and Trustees of the Museum, our 50/50 Campaign to raise funds not only met the objective of \$50,000 in twelve months, but currently totals \$57,892. This amount includes a few pledges yet to be paid. We can all be proud of the success of the campaign and very pleased with the overwhelming support we have received from the community.

The funds were ear-marked for a new roof, front portico repair, a new computer and software, as well as some needed landscaping improvements. The remainder of the funds raised have been added to the Museum investment fund which adds a small, but much needed amount to the operating budget of the Museum.

The conclusion of the 50/50 campaign does not mark the end of the Museum's need to fund everyday expenses, special items and activities. Among other pressing needs are:

- Paid and volunteer manpower to convert

print and data records to the new software program

- A computer lab area for historical research and records management.
- Archival grade storage for documents and museum display items

As we grow and contribute to the preservation and research of our local history, it is time to consider funding for a 'north side' expansion. The construction can be completed in phases with each phase providing needed space for the Museum. In this idea stage, your thoughts on how to accomplish this are welcome.

Thank you for your contributions of time, money and resources in making this fund raising effort a great success.



50
FOR
50
YEARS

Next Trivia Night Set For July 23th in Library

The Weston Historical Museum's next Trivia Night is set for Saturday, July 23th in the Weston branch of the Mid-Continent Library. It will start at 7:00 and run until 10:00 p.m. that evening.

As in the past, teams of 6 to 10 are encouraged to join the fun. Individuals who come without a team, can join one already there. We would like reservations made by a week before, if possible. The number to call is 816-386-5977 or 816-386-4063 and leave a message.

The price for admission will be \$15 per person. Teams need to bring their own snacks but beverages will be provided at no cost. Limited amounts of wine and beer will be available as well as iced tea and water.

Again, there will be ten categories of ten questions which will include sports, slogans, Weston history, television, music and the like.

Come join the fun and bring your friends and families, too.

Please Check Your Address Labels

We are asking all of you to check your address labels to see if your name, address and zip code are correct. If there needs to be a correction please call, write, send smoke signals, email us so that we can be certain we have it right in our computers.

Since losing some of our mailing list last year, we are still trying to be certain we have everything correct and every one who should be receiving a newsletter doing just that.

Thank you for the help.

Water Works Next! Weston is Going Ahead!

The following editorial came from the January 31, 1919 issue of *The Weston Chronicle*.

In a very few days the fire protection water system will be finished. The storm of December delayed the work of covering the mains but the basin is completed and folks who have been worrying over fire protection can soon rest assured that the city has made adequate provision for that emergency.

Then, best of all, very soon the people will be asked to vote the bonds which they intended for electric lights for a complete system of water works that can be used in homes. Twenty thousand dollars will probably be required for this proposition, to provide the necessary mains, two settling stations, pumping machinery, etc.

The finest of spring water will be secured for this purpose and the water will be chemically tested, and the people provided with the best of water for their homes, at moderate prices. The water supply has been a question that has kept many a home from modernizing, but now we believe Weston is to be a thoroughly up-to-date little city, with its fire protection, its electric lights and the water works, to which the voters will no doubt give the same whole-hearted sanction that has characterized their response to these other commodities.

Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

Three items from *The Weston Chronicle* issue of July 5, 1907:

"Some fifty or sixty men with teams and grades arrived last week and are camped west of town. They are grading for the railroad's double track from here to Iatan."

"The marriage of Miss Mary Noll and Nickolas Irmen is announced to take place July 16 at Leofeld, Sask., Canada. Miss Noll will be remembered as the daughter of Henry Noll who left Weston four years ago for Canada."

"A man by the name of Linn who is employed at the distillery has moved his family from Arkansas and now occupies Will Brill's home on Welt Street."

September 1919 reported that "Sgt. Charles Nelson Hillix telegraphed his safe arrival at Newport News, Va., Monday of this week. He had earlier enrolled in a mechanics course in St. Louis before signing up for service in the war."

In the April 14, 1961 issue we read the following: "Rev. Victor H. Grimm who was appointed to St. John's Lutheran Church in Farley has resigned after 42 years in the ministry. Rev. Grimm served a little over four years in Farley and the congregation will hate to see him leave but will remember his kindness and help."

May 29, 1936 the following item was found in *The Weston Chronicle*: "The May meeting of the Burruss Community Club was held at the home of Mrs. Chas. Collins last Tuesday, May 21, with thirteen members and three visitors present. Mrs. Johnnie Pepper had arranged a Mother's Day program, which was followed by a business meeting. A miscellaneous shower was given for Mrs. Richard Scott, who was the recipient of many lovely gifts."

An item in the paper in March 15, 1946 read: "The five room cottage, commonly known as the Steele property at the corner of Washington and Beaumont, was sold this week to Claud Scott who in turn sold his home and lot to Dr. and Mrs. R.J. Felling. The latter place is known to old residents as the Peter Bless home."

In Olden Days Poems Often Written For the Deceased

Charles A. and Clara Schumacher Murdock lost a small son who was only 7 days old May 31, 1907. The baby was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery and July 5, 1907 the following poem appeared in *The Weston Chronicle*:

In Memoriam of Little Baby Murdock

Just another little flower
Among the hosts above;
Adding its beauty to the bower,
And safe in a savior's love.

Our hearts are sad today
And life seems lone and drear,
As o'er his grave we sigh and say,
"How many hopes lie buried here."

Yet there is no life so brief,
But what's fulfilled God's plan;
We may not see it for our grief,
But someday we'll understand.

Then let us all submissive be
To what befalls us here,
Trusting were we cannot see
In heaven 'twill all be clear.

Looking above this little mound,
On heaven's amethystine skies,
Faith sees the beauty all around
On the hills of Paradise.

And see the happy children play
Under the vine clad trees,
And hears the voice of the Master say,
"The gates are ever ajar for these."

There, among that angelic throng,
On the strand of the jasper sea,
Our loved, mid praise and song,
Wait for you and me.

Unknown

Weston's Black History Still Being Discovered

Recently some more history about the African-American families of Weston has been found.

We had earlier discovered that many of the slaves in Weston headed for the Dakotas before, during and after the Civil War, looking for freedom for themselves and their offspring.

Charles Kercherval was born into slavery in Weston on January 1, 1862. His parents were Jerry and Mary Kercherval. He was the youngest of seven children and his parents were "separated by slavery". His father, Jerry, is believed to have finally ended up in Denver, Colorado. His mother, Mary, may have worked for George and Libby Custer at Ft. Leavenworth for a time. By 1883 George and his mother were living in the Black Hills.

According to what could be found, Mary Kercherval was born in 1833 in Kentucky. She was a slave and later the family that 'owned' her either moved or she was sold because census records show her children as born in Weston.

Mary had four children by her first husband, whose last name was Simpson or Sampson. The children were named Levi born in 1852, Ben born in 1856, Elvira possibly 1854 and Lou Ann possibly in 1855. These four children were born in Missouri, but it is unsure if they were born in Weston. She and her second husband, Jerry, had three children, Samuel who was born July 4, 1861, Belle born September 6, 1860 and Charles, who was born January 1, 1862. These last three children were said to have been born in Weston.

Charles' mother, Mary, was not set free in January 1863, by the Emancipation Proclamation because it applied only to people enslaved in states that had seceded from the Union. Instead, she was set free by the passage of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865. She was 32 years old at that time, bereft of a spouse due to his being sold, and completely responsible for her seven children.

Mrs. Mary Kercherval died July 20, 1921 according to her obituary in the *Queen City Mail*,

a newspaper in Spearfish, South Dakota. She was 88 years old.

If anyone has further information on this family or any African-American family that lived in Weston, the museum would love to have copies of your information for our files. Genealogy for the African-American is difficult to find in most cases, so any and all information would be greatly appreciated.

Did You Know That . . .

... in May 1936 the same pastor was conducting services at the Weston Baptist Church as well as the Short Creek Baptist Church? The minister was Rev. Fred Farris and on the 29th of May of that year he not only did the service at both of the above named churches but he also gave a service in Camden Point for the fifth Sunday meeting of the Platte County Baptist churches.

~~O~~

... Professor T.C. Monson taught in the Burruss School in the late 1890's? The Professor was once a Supt. of Weston High School in 1906-1907. He was also the first subscriber to the *Dearborn Democrat*, paying several years in advance even before the first paper was off the press. The editor of the newspaper at that time was Col. Harrington.

~~O~~

... David Pflugradt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Pflugradt of Weston, was in the U.S. Marines in the mid 1960's? He had been in Vietnam only two weeks when he was wounded on duty, receiving first degree burns on his face and second degree burns to his hands, one arm and knee.

~~O~~

... Norma's Salad Dressing was a factory? The factory was established in Rushville by Mr. and Mrs. John Rayfield.

~~O~~

... Avis and Jenny, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. George Rittman, joined a group of ten area students for a European trip? It was during the summer of 1966 and Miss Lana Babcock was the sponsor for the trip.

~~O~~

... the John Schalker family once ran a butcher shop in Weston? The father, and later the son, ran the shop for 35 years. A daughter, Berneice, made her operatic debut in Asheville, N.C., with the San Carlos Grand Opera. She remained with them for three years and later went on a nation-wide Armistice Day tour. She also sang in Leavenworth, where her mother lived at the time.

~~O~~

... Helena Schaedler came to America from Baden-Baden, Germany in 1874? She first lived with Mrs. Mary Blancjour and later with Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bonifant. She married George Haas in Weston on August 26, 1878. The couple went to housekeeping in a two-room log cabin on the Bonifant farm, west of town. Mrs. Haas died April 19, 1939.

Looking for Something to Do?

Volunteers are always welcome on "Work Day Mondays," when we sort, file and label items.

Our new computer has been installed and we need assistance with scanning new acquisitions and entering catalog information.

If you are interested or have questions, please call us at 386-4063 or 386-2977.

Museum Officers:

President	Carl Felling
Vice-President.....	Judy Juergens
Secretary	Charlotte Miller
Corresponding Secretary	Patricia Benner
Treasurer.....	Ted Wilson
Director	Ann Saugstad
Curator	Carolyn Larsen

Newsletter Staff:

Editor	Carolyn Larsen
Graphics	Barbara Bless

Convention of Homemakers Will Be Welcomed by Chronicle Monday in W.H.S. Auditorium

XXXXXX

No Invitation needed; Just Come; W.H.S. Auditorium, November 22-23-24

XXXXXX

(This article comes from the issue of the *Weston Chronicle* of November 18, 1937.)

The Chronicle's fascinating and different Cooking School that is just around the corner opens Monday at two o'clock in the W.H.S. Auditorium. Last-minute plans are being completed, even as this paper goes to press.

This will be a practical rally of homemakers to contribute fresh perspective for the 'same old job', the monotonous day-in-and-day-out job, yet the most important business in the world.

This entertainment is no ordinary film. Behind the sparkling humor and suspense that are so necessary to screen stories, was a deliberate plan—an ambitious determination to carry instruction, inspiration and worthwhile home news to women in every community.

The camera and the home specialists got together on their vigorous investigation, and The Chronicle was quick to snap up the chance to offer the interesting result. The camera took its time and it took its close-ups, so that every person in the Auditorium will have a "large as life, and twice as natural" view of each operation.

Enjoy free recipes, congenial informality, wise counsel, hints on clever short cuts, up-to-the minute suggestions for entertaining, demonstration of delicious and nourishing dishes, an array of modern kitchen equipment and the distribution of daily gifts and real surprises.

Keeping pace with the baking, roasting and frying, a series of salads and frozen delicacies will parade in and out of the adaptable electric refrigerator, which will reveal its host of possibilities for simplifying labor and marketing and contributing to good health and good food.

What to do with leftovers?

How to take the gloom out of laundry day?

How to save time, energy and temper in meal preparation?

How to be attractive in spite of the daily rush:

How to make piecrust that men love to eat?

How to give first aid to fallen cakes?

All these and many more questions answered.

The class isn't all work—there's the constant sparkling humor, the appeal of tender romance, and the suspense of a well-directed play of the things that really do happen in everyday life. It's just the romance of home making. The Chronicle knows that all women—brides, business types and experienced housekeepers, respond to the fascination of looking in on another woman at work in the kitchen.

Simple thrift meals, party and late supper events and even beauty secrets will be shared along with French-frying and shallow-pan frying.

Arrange for a party of your neighbors to come with you. Plan now for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Guests at the school will want to meet and remember the friendly local firms and nationally known products that are helping the Chronicle in this community undertaking. Participating in the Cooking School are:

Beaty's Store No. 116

Cramer's Drug Store

Davidson Bros. Motor Co.

Graham Cleaners

Johnson's Grocery

Rexall Drug Store

Rumpel Hdw., Furn. & Imp. Co.

Schindler's Grocery

Watchous Variety Store

Today's Mystery Corner:



The 'smiling' dog sitting in a chair in the middle of the street, in this photo, is of indeterminate heritage and age. We thank Mrs. Beverly McConnell for this photo.

Since Beverly knows nothing about the photo or about the subject of the picture, we are qualifying it as a 'mystery'.

It appears to be that the locale is the east part of Thomas Street. The twin spires of Holy Trinity Catholic Church can be seen in the left background. The church was built in 1912. It looks as though the building on the left is the back part of the Hotel. To the right is the building that was known as the Rumpel building.

The street is unpaved, and on the far left, almost indistinguishable, is a wagon.

We know this is not "Bennie" Kelly (pictured at right), the dog belonging to Frank Kelly, who ran the bar in the corner room of the St. George Hotel at one time.

Does anyone know the name of the dog or who his owner might have been? What was the event that caused the photo to be taken? Perhaps what year it was snapped?

If you can help with our 'mystery' please call 816-386-4063 or 816-386-2977 and leave a message if you get no answer. Thanks for your help.



"Bennie" Kelly at his Irish dapper best. He belonged to Frank Kelly who ran Kelly's Bar for many years in downtown Weston. Bennie was used in most of Kelly's advertising.

**The Weston Historical Museum
invites you to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity**

Experience

**Steamboats to Steam Engines:
George Caleb Bingham's Missouri, 1819-1879**

**At the
Harry S. Truman Library and Museum**

**You will see Weston artifacts on loan for the celebrated exhibit
and enjoy an insider's tour by
Clay Bauske, curator of the Harry S. Truman Library
and a Weston Historical Museum Trustee**

**Saturday, August 27, 2011
Depart from the Weston City Hall at 3 P.M. - Return at 10 P.M.
Comfortable Coach Transportation**

For Weston Historical Museum Members

Single ticket- 75.00

Couple- 150.00

For Non Members

Single Ticket- 90.00

Couple- 180.00

- Coach transportation to and from Weston
- Buffet Dinner in the Truman Library Atrium
- Limited Bar

Limited Reservations Available

Final date to book your reservation is July 27, 2011

No refunds after August 1

Please detach at the dotted line and mail and make check out to:

Weston Historical Museum PO Box 266, Weston, MO 64098

Questions can be answered by calling Marsha West at 816-386-9907 or email msuewest9907@embarqmail.com

Reservations will not be held without payment

Reservations for- List names as you want them to appear on name badges:

Number of people for Dinner: _____ Number of people for Bar Charge @ 10.00 /person _____

Name of Person(s) for bar charge (a designation for bar service will be added to the name badge):

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Total Amount Enclosed for Dinners and Bar Charges: _____



WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

P.O. Box 266
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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