

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

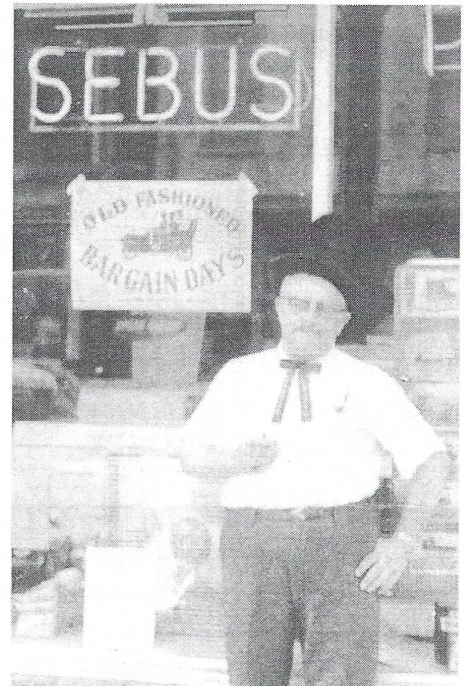
OCTOBER ~ NOVEMBER ~ DECEMBER 2010

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

Pictures from the Past



Greeting guests at the Museum during the very first Heritage Festival and Homes Tour in October 1960 were Dr. R. J. and Mrs. Mary Felling, Mrs. Mary Lee Quinley and Mrs. Bertha Bless.



Edwin Sebus and Bea Dowd also dressed for the weekend event.



Mitzi Pepper, Patricia Paden and Judy Turner were decked out in period clothes in October 1960.



Great Program Set For Annual Dinner

The annual November dinner/meeting is planned for November 14, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Weston Methodist Church at 533 Main Street.

The dinner is to be catered by The Avalon Café and the meal is priced at \$20.00 per individual. Following the dinner, Mr. Larry Lintner, a former resident of Weston and graduate of West Platte High School, now of Atchison, Kansas, will speak on Weston's history at the height of its commercial and cultural influence on the region. In speaking with Larry, one gets the impression that this will be a very interesting and enjoyable program for which to be present.

Reservations need to be returned by November 5th. Please mark this on your calendar and join us for fellowship and a very interesting program as well as a delicious meal.

50/50 Fundraiser Continues to Grow

The Weston Historical Museum has erected two 'boards' with which to track the funds coming into the museum from the **50 Years/\$50,000 Fund Drive**. One is next to the museum on the Spring Street side and the other one stands near the intersection of 45 and H Highways.

David Knox and Zim Hull put up the two signs, made by Tom Moppin. David is keeping busy marking the amounts received with red paint on the 'thermometer'. To date, donations have brought in around \$35,000.

We appreciate each and every donation given. We hope you take the opportunity to see the many improvements already being made in and around the museum in recent weeks.

The new standing-seam metal roof is now in place and after several heavy rains, we find it nice and tight and comfy. James Farley and crew just finished the work on the steps, shutters and portico with beautiful results.

The next improvement will be done by the Cottage Gardeners of Weston who volunteered to help with some needed landscaping, especially on the Spring Street side. Mrs. Beth McPher-

son and Mrs. Marilyn Lindahl met recently with the Museum's Executive board to show sketches and plans of the work to be done.

Several of the trees on both sides of the museum need to either be trimmed back or cut out altogether due to disease and poor condition of the tree. The Weston Jaycees have taken on the chore of doing this.

Please keep those dimes and nickels coming folks; the museum needs them to do major upkeep we've been unable to do a number of years. Hopefully, it will keep the museum going for another fifty years.

Cookbooks Donated in Honor of Marian Gaskill

In mid-September, Patricia Pirtle brought to the museum a number of cookbooks containing recipes and snippets from the life of her late son, Charles.

Charles was a first-class renowned chef who owned The Vineyards Restaurant on east Spring Street for many years. He spent many months essentially rebuilding the old home in which the restaurant resides. Once well-established, Charles traveled to various parts of the world adding to his knowledge of food and his recipes.

With the books, Mrs. Pirtle left a short note:

"Please accept these books in honor of Marian Gaskill.

She was Charles' first Weston customer as she states in the book.

I sent her my corrected version to criticize for me a few months before she left this earth. I did not know she was ill.

She helped me with the plaque for Charles' Vineyards.

She loved the museum and will always be remembered by me very fondly. I knew her for only 32 years and I feel blessed for that. She is missed but her life goes on in many ways.

Not all of us will be fortunate enough to leave the legacy that Marian left.

Patricia Pirtle

P.S. Throw her a kiss from time to time, I do."

The cookbooks are available at the Museum Gift Shop.

Applefest Honors Weston Historical Museum

Museum President Carl Felling, Director Ann Saugstad and Curator Carolyn Larsen were chosen as Grand Marshals for the Parade that kicked off the 2010 annual Applefest celebration. The Chamber chose this manner of helping the museum celebrate their 50th year.

It was a cool crisp beginning for October and the three marshals enjoyed riding in the bright red convertible driven by Howard Hellebuyck, a former Weston Mayor, and resident of Weston. Both Howard and Carl enjoyed taking pictures of people taking pictures of the car and its occupants.

Ann and Carolyn had fun waving at everyone, especially the little ones along the parade route.

Sitting on the viewing platform was also an opportunity to see friends, neighbors, politicians and other elements of the parade.

The Museum president, director and curator thank the Chamber of Commerce for choosing them and highlighting the 50th anniversary for our institution.

Throughout the rest of Saturday and Sunday, the museum entertained a number of visitors, including many from Weston.

New Displays Planned For Work This Winter

The barbershop is now completed and already being enjoyed by the guests who visit the museum. Many of the male visitors remember sitting in such a chair when younger. We have Marshall Hill to thank for this display.

The pie safe, courtesy of Mr. Donald Brandon of Smithville, is now within the museum waiting exactly how it will be shown. Work will commence on that this winter when we are shut down for several months. Also waiting for its exact use is the cabinet from the Rumpel Hardware building donated to us by Chuck and Bill Sebus.

Mr. Robert Schroeder recently donated a large metal map cabinet that will prove useful in showing off some of our unique maps as well as some large photos and the like. Again, this

will wait until the winter months for work to begin.

These larger items have been moved in to the museum with the help of Marshall Hill, Owen O'Neill, Museum President Carl Felling, Quint Shafer, David Knox, Jared Welch and Jeremy Webb.

Plan to come see all the new items within your museum as soon as possible, especially after our reopening in March of 2011.

Weston Tobacco Shop Opens on Main Street

A Tobacco Shop has been opened in the old Rumpel Hardware store on Main Street in Weston. The new businessman is Corey Frisbee and the name of his business is The Weston Tobacco Company.

Corey wraps and packs the cigars with tobacco from South America. He hopes to start using local Missouri tobacco soon.

The weekends of the Applefest and the Irish Fest found many men on the street puffing away at large well-packed cigars they purchased at the new shop. I am told they had a good flavor to them and were well enjoyed by the smokers.

In recent weeks there have been several articles on this new business in several area newspapers, including *The Kansas City Star*.

The store now boasts a big-screen TV, pool tables and a back room lounge for socializing. According to Mr. Frisbee. The cigar has much to do with socializing.

Our own Gary Enright, new museum volunteer, has added his endorsement to the cigars.

Like to Read Albums, Diaries & Other Books?

Within the walls of your museum you can find many interesting objects and documents. Among these are a diary or two, postcard albums, albums with newspaper articles, office ledgers and church records, just to name a few of the items.

Looking into a Sunday School Record of the Short Creek Baptist Church dated 1925 it was noted that the Sunday School had over a total of 100 with 8 in the Cradle Roll, 14 Beginners, 3

primary, 1st Junior had 3 students and 2nd Junior was comprised of 9. The Intermediate Class had a total of 11 and Seniors had 9. Officers and teachers of the Sunday School totaled 14.

Four years later in 1929 Class #3 had as their teacher Mrs. A.L. Kidwell. Students were Margaret Spinner, Dorothy Goble, Nellie Margaret Brown, Clyde Busey, and May Woolston.

Mrs. A.D. Blythe taught Norman and J.D. Park, Gilbert and Cecil Spinner, Lee Roy Lemmon, Etta Mae Boatwright, Leota Spinner and Cloud Hood, all members of Class #5.

Currently the museum also has two large albums on display that are of the Grand Opening of the museum and several of the Old Homes Tours. These albums include programs, newspaper articles, and many photographs of those special events.

Autumn Drive Revives Memories of Bean Lake

During a recent drive to see the fall foliage, the road to Bean Lake was taken. Though it is hard to determine where Keene's Kamp once stood, still there are houses and trailers in the area. And, of course, lots of farm land. It was a beautiful day for the drive and it was filled with nostalgia.

On returning home, I was going through several articles about Bean Lake and ran into the following dated March 27, 1959:

"Martha J. Turner who has been a Bean Lake resident since she was 17, died at the Atchison hospital on Thursday last.

She was born in Howell County, Missouri, 90 years ago. Her brothers, who preceded her in death were farmers and served as duck hunting guides. They were John, Grant and Fred Chapin and are remembered by many hunters in the area.

Mrs. Turner had operated the General Store in Bean Lake since the death of her husband, J. H. Turner in 1943.

Survivors are two sisters, Mrs. William E. Stevens and Mrs. Clare Johnson, both of Bean Lake.

Funeral services were held Saturday in Atchison with burial in the Sugar Creek cemetery."

Did You Know . . .

... that Cody's 'Hemp House' stood on the NE corner of Main and Market? It later became Holladay's "Gallon House" then Doppler's Grocery later How's Shoe Store and even later Western Auto.

~~O~~

... that in 1916 Woodrow Wilson's wife sent a lovely lace handkerchief to the lady's guild of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church? The women were getting ready for the annual Christmas Catholic Bazaar and had asked for handkerchiefs from many well-known ladies to put up for sale. All handkerchiefs sold and the ladies made a sum of three dollars and some cents.

~~O~~

... that a town site called St. Mary's was laid off at the mouth of Bee Creek in August 1857? Its projectors were Capt. Andrew Johnson, William C. Remington and Judge James S. Spratt. No lots were ever sold, but Major John Boulware kept a store there for a time. He also operated, at one time, the Rialto ferry across the Missouri River to Fort Leavenworth.

~~O~~

... that Michael Byrd, Hugh McCafferty and John B. Collier were appointed by the Governor of Missouri as the first three county judges for Platte County? At the same time Jones H. Owen was also appointed as Platte County Sheriff. The first County Court was held at the Falls of the Platte River in the house rented of Michael D. Faylor in the town of Martinsville on March 11, 1839.

~~O~~

... that "Aunt Liza" Bell and "Aunt Jo" Spotts were two African-American mid-wives in Weston? In the late 1800's and early 1900's the two women brought probably half the white population of Weston into the world. No matter the time of day or night or the weather conditions, the two answered the doctors' ring with uncomplaining eagerness to help bring another soul into the world.

~~O~~

... that potichomania is the name for a talent more commonly know as sand art? The museum has an example of this that shows an American flag, flowers, a date and a name on it.

The artist was a deaf young man who also had lost the ability to speak.

~~o~~

... that at one time there was a railroad round house approximately where the home of L.R. and Sue Vaughn now stands? This was at the time when the Atchison R.R. ran to Weston, turned around and went back. Later there was another one near the town of Stillings.

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... that a woman in Weston was a licensed funeral director? It was Mrs. John H. Brill. She attended mortuary classes becoming one of the few women in the state at the time, and worked with her husband in the Brill Mortuary.

~~o~~

... that the late Judge John Yeaman was a former FBI agent? He was also a fighter pilot, a lawyer, a husband and a father. He was known widely by the nickname of "Spec".

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... that a native of Weston was the first woman lawyer to try a case before a criminal judge? She was Daisy Barbee and she was actually the only woman lawyer in Missouri in 1897.

Bertha's Bits & Pieces From the Morgue

March 3, 1959 *The Weston Chronicle* read:

"The Platte Valley Club met on Wednesday with Mrs. Thurman Graves.

Nine members were present and the visitors were Mrs. Bob Graves, Mrs. J.B. Pepper, Mrs. Willie Steele and her grandson.

On April 5th the club will celebrate their birthday and to observe it, members and their families will have an all day meeting and basket dinners at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Taulbee."

~~o~~

September 11, 2002 in an issue of the same newspaper, "The City of Weston approved an application for a Bed and Breakfast at 1020 Spring Street for Connie Juergens. The only comment at a public hearing beforehand was by Mary Jo Heidrick, who owns a house across the street from the Juergens home. She wanted to know if the 100 foot between Bed and Breakfast facilities requirement would mean she could not have one. The answer ended up being "Maybe."

~~o~~

In news about Our Boys, January 1, 1919: "Claude F. Williams, formerly of Weston, is now in a camp in Kentucky. His injuries, received in France, will make him a cripple for life, but he says he is happy to be back and will soon be at the home of his parents in Leavenworth."

"Mrs. Alfred Doyle has received word that her husband, who has been a German prisoner for several months, has been released and he is now with his old company."

~~o~~

We read in the issue of *The Weston Chronicle* dated January 9, 1909:

"At the meeting of the St. Cecelia Musical Club at the C.H. Hillix residence Saturday, the following appeared on the program: Erma Hull, Alma Shouse, Juanita Risk, Minnie and Catharine Hillix, Gertie Ferrel, Esther Schumacher, Antoinette Benner, Geo. Russell, Sweetie Hollied and Brownie Coots."

~~o~~

February 1961 brings us this item: "Donald Lober, Jr., of Liberty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Lober of Kearney has recently been made executive vice-president of the Charles F. Curry Real Estate Company of Kansas City.

Lober, a former resident of Weston graduated from Weston High School, attended Missouri Valley College in Marshall and is a graduate of Missouri University with a degree in Business Administration. He was a bomber pilot during W.W. II and was a prisoner of war for a number of months."

~~o~~

The same issue brought us this item: "With a marvelous display of team effort, the West Platte Bluejays defeated Plattsburg last Tuesday night by a score of 63-47. The game was played on the home court and was non-conference. 63 points is the highest number of points scored by the Bluejays in a single game for the past three seasons.

Of the 48 rebounds grabbed off by West Platte, Gorman West, was responsible for 21.

Lee Hull was high point man for the Bluejays followed by Charles Horseman with 14 points and Gorman West with a total of 10 points.

Lee Hull was West Platte Captain for the game."

Unique "Fence" Used in Museum

(An article found in the Museum album, taken from "The Weston Chronicle" dated April 22, 1960.)

Visitors to the Weston Historical Museum are going to be envious of its promoters, because of a very unusual dividing "fence". Several years ago, a Platte County man drove into Dr. R.J. Felling's driveway and calling the Doctor, said to him: "I know you are a 'saver' so I came to you with a 'white elephant' to me. I was at a sale of a lumber yard, closing out. One of the last things to go was a pile of some 300 singletrees. When they were offered for two cents apiece, I couldn't resist a bargain. I bought them. Then wondered what on earth I'd do with them. Then I thought of you."

When the plans for the museum remodeling moved along, it was obvious that a dignified type of divider was needed between the two levels of floor and around the entrance side of the library section. "The singletrees!" exclaimed the Doctor. Eyebrows went up. The trustees wondered if the good man had been working too hard. But everyone waited without comment.

Came the load of aged, solid oak singletrees. Then Badger Buckler patiently sanded them down and Carl Weisinger stained and varnished them. "Took \$17.00 worth of material to finish them, said Carl. But what folks are saying about the finished product would take double quotation marks to convey the pride in them. They are a beautiful foil to the light tile floor, bone white ceiling and bluish green walls.

Only a few people have been privileged to see them, but their praise is high. The trustees are all might glad Doctor Felling has a reputation as a 'saver' and a quick knowledge of a bargain. But most of all they appreciate his willingness to share a good thing for the benefit of

Weston Has Its Own Historic Plate

The following is an article from "The Weston Chronicle" dated May 27, 1960. The museum held its grand opening in October of that year.

Weston has its own historical plate!

Made of Staffordshire china, imported from England, it has an etching made of the town by a German artist in 1850. This artist traveled by boat and made drawings of St. Charles, Jefferson City, West Port Landing, and of Weston and St. Joseph. The drawings appeared in the North American Illustrated published by Meyers in 1850.

Under each picture was a complete description of each town and the church in the background of the Weston drawing is mentioned. It was the Presbyterian church, now owned by the Christian Assembly.

Dr. R. J. Felling made the copy that is used on the plates.

Anyone wishing to purchase one for a collection or gift may inquire of Mrs. B.J. Bless, Dr. Felling or the Chronicle.

Dedication Begins At 12:10 Sunday

The following appeared in "The Weston Chronicle" on October 21, 1960.

Because there is no room for chairs in either section of the first floor of the Museum building, guests who come for the dedicatory service Sunday will be asked to stand. The service will begin promptly at 12:10 to enable worshippers at the several churches to come directly to the museum. It will conclude at 12:30, in order to open the houses on tour at the advertised hour.

A very short invocation and benediction, a few remarks by Dr. Felling, the director and by the Honorable Wm. R. Hull, Jr., a song by an increasingly popular trio, an acceptance remark or two by president of the City Council, in the absence of the Mayor and the program will be over. Mrs. B.J. Bless, Jr., president of the museum, will preside.

Rev. Maurice Hall, Liberty, will give the invocation and benediction. Mr. Hall has been Supt. of Missions of Clay-Platte Baptist Association for ten years. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City. He served as a Chaplain in the Air Force.

Weston Homes Tour

Sunday, October 23, 1960

12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Commemorating the Formal Opening of

Weston Historical Museum

Homes on Tour Marked with Red Flags

*B.J. Bless, Jr. R. B. Jones Irene Loyles
M. M. Ohlhausen George Z. Hull*

Donation \$1.00

Complimentary (Ask your hostess)

*Tour of Museum Tea Distillery
Tobacco Auction*

Movie: "Weston Tobacco, Seed to Auction"

Formal Opening

Weston Historical Museum

Weston, Missouri

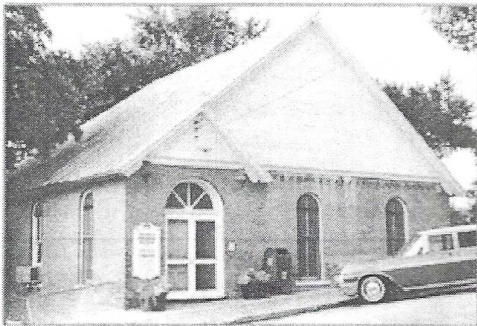
Sunday, October 23, 1960

12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Optional: Homes Tour - - - Donation \$1.00

Copies of the invitation to the formal opening of the Museum and a ticket to the Homes Tour are two of the many items on view at the Museum - all celebrating our 50th year. Stop by and check out our scrapbooks.

*Please Remember
to Send in Your
Reservations for the
Annual Dinner!
Reservations Due November 5th.*



WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 7

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

Weston Historical Museum
Annual Dinner Meeting

Sunday, November 14th

5:30 p.m.

Methodist Church Basement

Fellowship Hall ~ 533 Main Street ~ Weston, Missouri

Program: Larry Lintner

Larry Lintner of Atchison, Kansas will speak on Weston's 1850's history at the height of its commercial and cultural influence on the region. His presentations give an outstanding understanding of our region's development and the people who influenced our history.

Dinner Reservations are \$20.00 per person.

Dinner is catered by The Avalon Cafe.

Deadline for reservations is November 5th.

Please mail your reservation form to:
Weston Historical Museum, P.O. Box 266, Weston, MO 64098
or call 816-386-2977 or 816-640-2785.

Name _____

Telephone _____

Number of Reservations _____

Amount Enclosed _____