

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

OCTOBER~NOVEMBER~DECEMBER 2012

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

Weston's 175th Birthday Celebrated in High Style

"Fun, lots of Weston people," was the main comment heard among those found attending and enjoying Weston's 175th Birthday celebration Saturday, September 22, 2012.

The parade, which wound its way through downtown, included motorcyclists, Scouts, former Mayors in convertibles, a horse-drawn buggy, vintage cars, as well as both High School and Junior High bands and Homecoming floats from West Platte.

Youngsters enjoyed activities in the park and food for one and all was found at street booths, in the Masonic Hall and in the local restaurants. Buggy rides that toured the town and tours of several of the town's churches were also available.

On the Main Street stage there was a special prayer for the town and its inhabitants by Rev. Charles Rowe of Holy Trinity Church, a talk by Mayor Carlen Carter, and the reading of a poem written for the occasion by Weston's Poet Laureate, Kathy Searcy Miller.

The Elementary Chorale, under direction of Bess Deloux and accompanied by Sandy Taylor and Ted Cline, performed "God Bless the USA" and "Weston". Other music presented included Ted Cline and daughter, Abby; Grace Cogan on piano; The Farley Family - James, Zophia and Addison - on violins; Sherri Boatright-Guthrie; Alan Lintner and Anita Payne Bearce.

H. Miles Moore, Tabitha Cumi Davis Wells, Marjorie Schindler Pepper and Mary Owens took to the stage to tell "their" tales of early-day Weston, portrayed by Larry Lintner, Carol Lint-

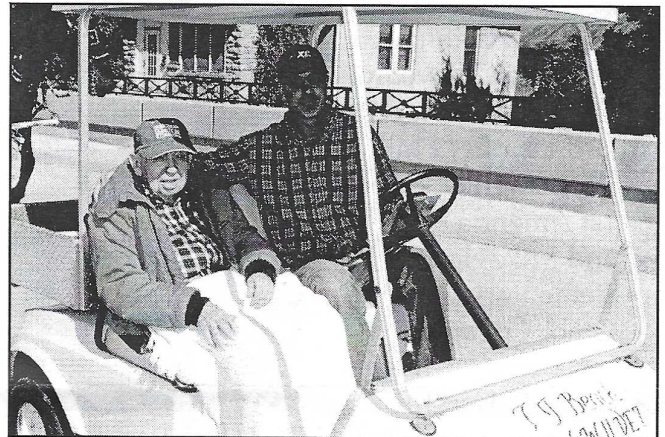


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTON CHRONICLE

T. J. Beach, a long-time science teacher at West Platte High School, was among those riding in the 175th Birthday Parade.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTON CHRONICLE

The West Platte High School Marching Band performed in front of the Main Stage during the Birthday Parade. The Junior High Band and the Elementary Chorale Group also entertained the crowd.

(Continued on Page 2)

Weston's 175th Birthday

(Continued from Page 1)

ner, Grace Cogan and Joyce Burch, respectively.

Winners of the Weston Historical Essay Contest were announced by Clay Bauske, the Museum's Vice President. The essays can be found and read on the Weston Historical Museum website.

The winners:

- Open Division:
 - 1st Fred Chiaventone
 - 2nd Frances Roach
 - 3rd Heather Phillips
- Jr.-Sr. High Division
 - 1st Amanda Swift
 - 2nd Mikayla Shaffer
- Elementary Division
 - Grace Cogan

First place winners were awarded cash prizes, while runners-up received either a set of *Memories of Weston - Vol. 1 & 2* by Sandra Miller, or *Tobacco Barns of Weston*, by Stephanie Smither Rotterman.

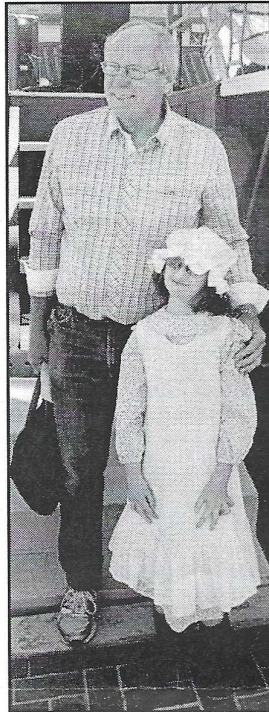
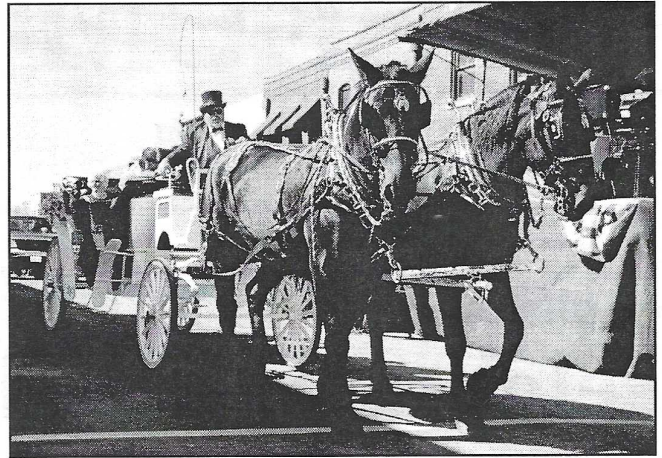


PHOTO BY THE WESTON CHRONICLE

Clay Bauske and Grace Cogan paused by the stage following the presentation of the Museum's Essay Contest winners.

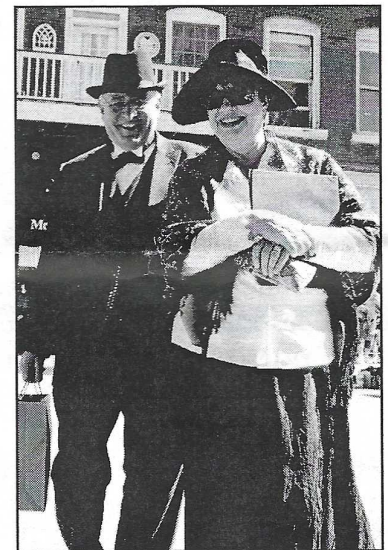


PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WESTON CHRONICLE

Former and present residents of Weston enjoyed visiting with friends and relatives during the day and as some said, "people watching."

Two large decorated cakes, done by Cyndie's Cakes of Weston, were cut and served to all those who wanted a touch of sweet after hot dogs, hamburgers, and barbecued beef sandwiches.

The weather cooperated by being sunny and not too hot, not too cool which only added to the lovely hometown atmosphere.



Larry and Carol Lintner, took part in the day by portraying early-day Westonians.

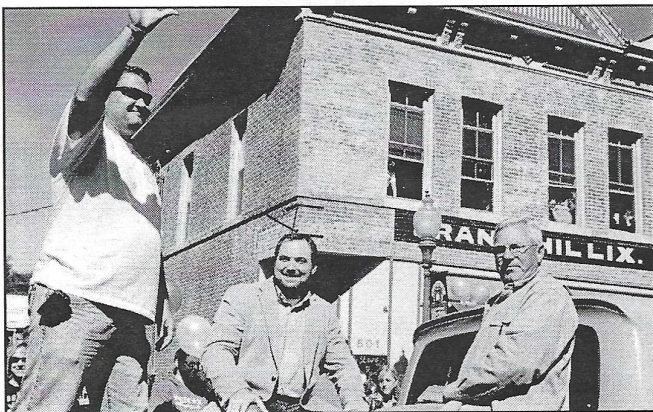


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTON CHRONICLE

Current Weston Mayor C.R. Carter waved to parade spectators, accompanied by two former Mayors, Greg Hoffman, Carter's predecessor and Kenneth Clemens, who served in the 1970's.



Annual Meeting Set for November 11th

Weston Museum's Annual Board of Trustees and Membership Meeting will be held Sunday, November 11th at the United Methodist Church in Weston. The dinner meeting, catered by The Avalon, will begin at 6 o'clock.

Jay Dillingham of Kansas City is our featured speaker this fall. He has a strong family background in Weston. His grandfather, John Dye, and great-grandfather, James Dye, founded and operated Dye Store, just north of Weston. Jay will be sharing interesting facts about development in our area north of the Missouri River.

Currently Jay is chairman of the *Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area* and the *Clay County Historical Millennium Board*. He has been the past Chairman of the Liberty Memorial World War I Museum and Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City.

Reservations are \$20.00 per person and are due no later than November 1st. A reservation form can be found in this issue of *Museum Musings*.

We look forward to seeing you all there!



Shown with the Travelling Trivia Trophy are the winning team, left to right: Judy Juergens, Lynn Collison, Pat Benner, Connie Wilson and Barbara Bless.

Not pictured is sixth team member Mary Jo Heidrick.

Weston Museum's semi-annual Trivia Night was held Saturday, August 4th at the Mid-Continent Public Library. Over 60 turned out for the Museum fund raiser. Judges Jean Hartley, Ruth Marr and Marsha West were assisted by scorekeeper Larry Clemens and emcee Glenn Benner. Carl Felling and Sandy Taylor handled bar duty.

With an exciting tie-breaker, Connie Wilson's team beat out Chris West's team (Team Awesome) for the Travelling Trophy. Our next Trivia Night will be early next year. We look forward to seeing you then.

An Interesting Landmark Gone

(Found in issue of March 4, 1927
of *The Weston Chronicle*.)

With the razing of the old Cooper Shop last week, one of the oldest landmarks in the way of business buildings in Weston was torn down. The cellars under that building were built as an adjunct to the Brewery in 1865. The old Brewery being built in 1859.

Gus Kuntz, one of the first two owners of the Brewery, built them the next year, the superstructure was added. In this building a little beer garden held forth, where beer and cigars were sold on Sundays, after the regular saloons closed. The "garden" was tended by different people, the last of whom was Wm. Newman in 1869, after which the "garden" was abandoned.

The Brewery changed hands several times before the late John Walruff bought it in 1887. At that time the little building was converted into a Cooper Shop and for decades the cling clang of the ringing blows of the old coopers pounding out on the hoops of barrels and kegs could be heard in the building.

The most familiar figure in the old cooper shop was the late William Gross, who coopered there almost from the opening of the shop. Mr. Gross was a big reader and a good entertainer. He loved little children and many a time during his spare moments he entertained some little lad with a good story. The old cooper shop was always an interesting spot for the boys of the town.

More Answers Come In From Our Inquiries

We have been informed, by reliable sources, that John Sweet had his shop in the building that now holds The Celtic Ranch.

Jim Burrow and several others informed us that the shop called Art's Barber Shop, was owned by Art Risker, who lives in Tracy. Sure enough, we found him in the telephone book.

We are still looking for any information anyone would possibly have on the location of Gabbert's Variety Store that existed in the early 1940's; the location of the Waterman Motor Company, in 1934, and who ran it; The Be-Square Service Station (later renamed the H & V Service Station) run by John H. Hardsity and Maurice S. Vaughn, in the early 1930's; and where the Chastain Drug Store was located and a date or time line on it?

Bits and Pieces from Bertha's Morgue

The Chronicle issue of Aug. 29, 1919 brings us this item: "Frank Hillix sold his residence at the corner of Spring and Summer streets last week to Lee Murphy. Consideration \$9000."

~ 0 ~

In that same issue this item popped up, "W. A. Wilson and wife have given possession of their home on North Blackhawk, recently sold to Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Richardson, who will move into it about October first. The Wilsons are occupying Miss Lou Kurtz's rooms until their new house on Summer street is completed. John Hollied has this contract."

~ 0 ~

A bit of news found in the Sept. 30, 1938 Weston Chronicle gave us this: "Howard Fulk, son of Alva Fulk of Beverly, a sophomore in W.H.S., thinks he's having a bad break—in fact three of them. Two are literal and one figurative. Last year, Howard wanted to play in the local athletic contests and about the first practice game of basketball broke one bone in his wrist, necessitating his withdrawal from active participation in sports. This year, Howard tried out for football and in a skirmish this week, broke the arm in the same place, but this time broke both bones. "Isn't that some break for me?" he asks disgustedly when he watches the other lads trot out on the practice field."

~ 0 ~

In September of 1938 we find, "Mary Lou Marr and Omar Ray Watson were declared co-winners in the original composition contest for the Missouri State Fair."

~ 0 ~

Dec. 5, 1958's issue brought this item: "Mrs. Irma Gray and grandson, Tommy, attended the funeral of Mr. Charles C. Gray in Lexington, Mo., recently.

Mr. Gray, the last of a family of six, was buried with military honors. Dr. James M. Stanford, chaplain at the Wentworth Military Academy conducted the services. Mr. Gray, 84, was a retired veteran of the Spanish American War and was one of the few to escape injuries during the Boxer Rebellion in China.

He was a brother of the late Mr. Bony Gray and is survived by three daughters."

~ 0 ~

The First Baby Contest ever held at the Platte County Fair was in August 1940. It was held under the auspices of the Lion's Club and the P.C. Fair Board.

Fire was the subject of this item found in The Weston Chronicle Dec. 5, 1958:

Stephanie Tolle is "the greatest" according to two of her young uncles, Jimmy and Michael Layton.

During the Thanksgiving holidays the boys took time out of their social lives to strip tobacco. Busily at their stripping they failed to pay too much attention to Stephanie who had volunteered to help them.

After a bit Stephanie left the stripping room but hurried back to them and yelled "the stripping room is on fire!" Thinking she was 'pulling their legs' they ignored her and went on with their work. Two more times she came back to tell them. On the third time the young men decided to squelch her and they strolled out to take a look. One look and they were running for buckets and ladders—the stripping room was on fire! Stephanie was a heroine and a mighty smart one at that!

Stephanie is the 4th grade daughter of Barbara and Russell Tolle.

Did You Know . . .

. . . that in December of 1920 George Parrish presented an electrical display and show of appliances in the Eureka Theatre?

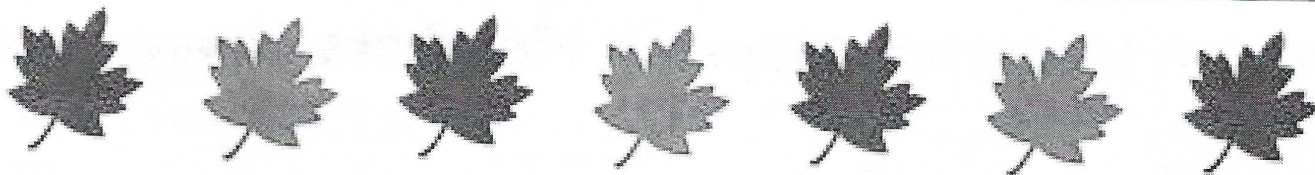
. . . that the first Board of Trustees for the Weston Historical Museum had 16 members and four ex-officio trustees? The sixteen were T.J. Beach, Jr., Earl B. Benner, Mrs. B.J. Bless, Jr., Richard L. Cray, Dr. L.C. Calvert, Charles Bless, Leslie Dyer, Dr. R.J. Felling, Wm. Browning Hull, W.R. Hull, Jr., Geo. Z. Hull, Jr., Leroy Peden, Mrs. Raymond Pepper, Walter Vaughn, Mrs. Arthur G. Watson and Roger Wilson. The Ex-Officios were Supt. Rudy Eskridge, County Librarian Al Hasemeier, local librarian Marie Ohlhausen and J.M. Yeaman.

. . . that in 1937 there was an Old Fiddler's and Home Talent Contest held in Weston? The winner of that contest was Walter Thompson, Jr., 9-years-old, who played the harmonica.

. . . that Weston held its First Flower Show in May of 1921? There were 88 entries by adults and 8 by children.

. . . that the village of Tracy held its first election in 1961? It was under the 4th class rating and was technically called a village at the time.

. . . that where the Sebus locker plant that stood near the corner of Market and Main, was once a hardware store. Operated by Demmy Wells? It was later operated by Henry Magers.



Weston Historical Museum Annual Dinner Meeting

Sunday, November 11th • 6:00 p.m.

Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

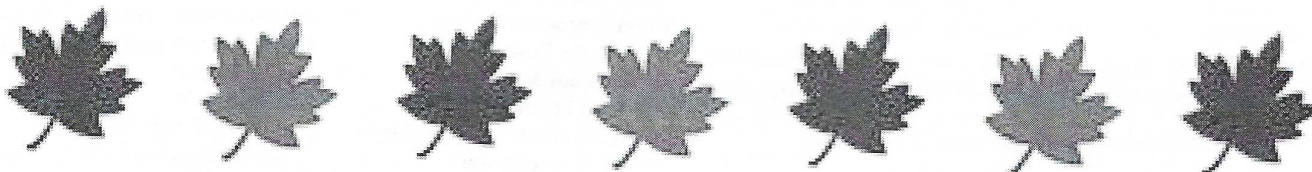
533 Main Street • Weston, Missouri

Dinner will be catered by The Avalon

———— THE EVENING'S PROGRAM ————

Jay Dillingham

“Development North of the River”



**Reservations are
\$20 per person.**

*Deadline for
reservations is
November 1st.*

Please fill out the form below and mail it or bring it to:

The Weston Museum
P.O. Box 266, 601 Main Street
Weston, MO 64098

Name _____

Phone Number (____) _____

No. of Reservations _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Weston Historical Museum Members

December 2012

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Mary Jo Heidrick
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 Dick & Helen Shores
 Louise E. (Doppler) Smith
 Creighton J. Spinn
 Lee A. Wilhite

STUDENT

Coy Kirby
 Coy Taylor
 Kaylee Taylor
 Trent Taylor

* Denotes additional donation

Membership Fees Due January 1st

Annual memberships renew January 1, 2013 and are due as of that date. Enclosed in this month's newsletter is a response card for you to fill out and return.

Membership dues are the life's blood for us, helping to pay for the basic overhead such as heat and lights.

Weston Museum is a non-profit organization, run by mostly volunteers. We welcome and greatly appreciate any size of monetary gift, which are tax deductible.

So please dig deep and join us for another history-making year.

Weston H.S. Supt. Gets "Testy" with P.C.H.S. Supt.

(In the early years of the football games between Weston and Platte City it was usual for the Superintendents to taunt, threaten and tease each other about the upcoming games. Often it was done with tongue in cheek, but not always. Was this particular letter done in fun or was there something more this particular time?)

October 31, 1914

Mr. A.A. Ross.
Platte City. Mo.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 26th at hand and in reply will state that I have been told by more than one the Platte City High School would not play the W.H.S. at Thanksgiving on any grounds. And, that your pretext was only a pretext to call off the game. Now if that is so then call it off, say that you and your boys are cowards and be done with it. This came from one of your high school boys.

I will get an outside Referee for the game, one who is no way invested from St. Joseph, Atchison, Leavenworth, or Kansas City and will notify you as soon as I can secure the official. But I will ask that you post forfeit of \$25.00 in Railey Bros. Bank and I will do likewise that you will not back down.

I will call your hand on a better proposition. I will let young Mr. Wells, provided he stay away from you before the game for two weeks, to Referee the game as long as he is treating both teams square.

There is a dozen other teams asking for a game with Weston and my boys are not worrying any about your little dinky team. We merely want to see if the white flag is really floating over Platte City.

Now we will either get the outside man or let Mr. Wells, but you will have to post the forfeit of \$25.00 within the next five days or we will consider you a man of your word, promise a game and then back out (Some Sport!) and take it for granted that you are afraid to play us.

Now I have done my share and more to do away with the bad feeling that exists between the two teams. We played you when we knew that we had no show of winning, merely because we are true sports, now you show your colors, don't you?

Ross, my boys have no ill feeling toward your boys, I know this to be true, but they would not trust you out of their sight.

Now it is up to you either to play or back out like a skunk.

Let me hear from you what you intend doing.

Respectfully,
(signed) D.E. Mothersead, Supt.
Weston Public Schools
High School of First Class

Backlog Is Building; We Need Volunteers

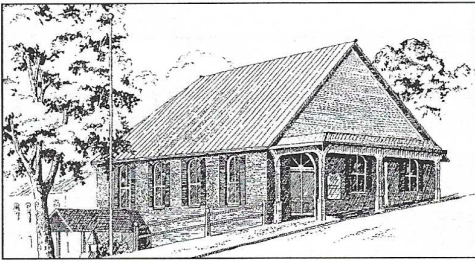
Throughout the year, a small group of volunteers gather each Monday at the Museum. We clip papers, attaching the clippings to acid-free paper and filing them. We also update cataloging, scan photographs, do research for requests received during the week and plan for the new years' displays. We are also always looking for new places and ways to store donations we receive.

However much we accomplish, there is new history being made each day, and with that comes newspapers to clip and items to catalog and file

If you and/or a friend have an hour or two, the Museum would really appreciate your help. Just call Carolyn or Ann at the Museum, 816-386-2977.

Check Us Out Online

**www.westonhistorical
museum.org.**



WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

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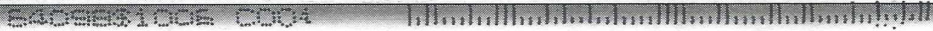
Permit No. 7



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



Mystery Corner Solved

Our picture of the twins on our mystery corner in the last newsletter has been identified.

Several caller said they were the twin sons of Max and Lucy Jones, owners and editors of *The Landmark*, which at one time was printed in Weston, but later moved to Platte City.

The boys were often referred to as AM and

PM by friends. Their given names were Andrew and Phillip, with the middle initial of M.

A recent issue of the present day *Landmark* shows both men at their 70th birthday party. Phil is on the right in both pictures.

