

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

OCTOBER ~ NOVEMBER ~ DECEMBER 2015

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

Fire Destroys Historical Church

An early morning fire on Saturday, September 12th, completely destroyed the Short Creek Baptist Church near Rushville.

The congregation was formed 145 years ago, but the burned building had been used for 120 years.

Several local fire departments responded to the call but could only keep the fire from spreading to the parsonage and other outbuildings. No cause for the fire has been determined at press time.

Members are meeting for now in the parsonage, which was slightly damaged. Their annual pig roast, scheduled for the 19th, went on as planned.

Many years ago, ladies of the Short Creek made a quilt with members' names embroidered on it. They later donated it to the Museum. We are pleased and proud they entrusted their memories with us.

Museum's Computer "Geek" a Competitor



Owen Chiaventone, son of Fred Chiaventone and Sharon Reeber of Weston, was one of a team of Science and Technology students who traveled to Podzamcze, Poland in early September for a national competition of 40 teams on the European Rover Challenge. The team from Missouri University of Rolla, placed 10th in the competition. Owen and the

rest of his team had to design, build and operate the next generation of Mars rovers.

Now this editor understands little or nothing about the work and all the details, however we wish to take this time to congratulate Owen as he was, for a year, the museum's computer "geek", if you



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CAMIE BEARDEN



will. A quiet, intelligent and unassuming young man, Owen knew far more than the rest of us when it came to computers and we enjoyed his work with us. The staff and volunteers wish Owen continued accomplishments in his field of endeavor. We also give a compliment to his parents and grandparents, Mort and Zelda Reeber of Weston, for giving Owen the chance to learn and grow in his field. We are quite proud of the student, a junior, in computer engineering and computer science.

WAY TO GO OWEN!!

Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

We found no date for this article from The Weston Chronicle, but found it to be interesting and informative.

"The block on east Spring street extending from Welt to Rock has homes that were recently sold to the Brewing company to enlarge their plant. The five houses that will be torn down, have been the homes of former citizens whose names are linked with the past and whose memories will be cherished by coming generations. Some are Lorenzo Burnes, Lewis Georgens, Amelia Ellis, Johanna Kunz, Sam A. Gilbert, Adolph Ruf, John Schindler, B. Ruf, Fred Hoeck, Zack Renz, Matthias Clemens, Rudolph Basch, Louis Tegarden, John McConnell, Edward Schelsky, John Rohring, Charles Weidemann, Mary Groff, Gabriel Termier, J.B. Wells, Alexander McConnell, Winibald Rumpel.

The Hoeck house was the first to be torn down to make way for the grading."

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The local newspaper reported this in November of 1962:

"John, youngest son of Mr. and W.D. Dowd, is the fourth son of this couple to win an Eagle Scout award, the highest ranking award in regular Scouting.

The award was made Sunday afternoon at the Music Hall of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. His mother was given the honor of pinning the award on her son."

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In the October 6, 1967 issue of The Weston Chronicle we found this item:

"Staff Sergeant Lester W. Cox, U.S. Army, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism. The Executive order reads that Staff Sgt. Cox distinguished himself by valorous actions on 1 July 1967, while serving as acting platoon leader on a combat operation in the jungles of Vietnam.

During the afternoon hours the unit suddenly came under the intense volume of automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire from a well concealed Viet Cong force. Without hesitation, Sgt. Cox maneuvered his unit into a position where they could gain fire superiority over the insurgents. Without regard for his personal safety and fully realizing the peril of the situation, Sgt. Cox repeatedly exposed himself to a torrent of enemy fire as he maneuvered

from position to position encouraging his men and directing their fire. At one point in the encounter Sgt. Cox dashed across the bullet-swept battlefield in order to render medical aid to two wounded soldiers.

Sgt. Cox's heroic actions were an inspiration to all and contributed significantly to the overwhelming defeat of the Viet force. Staff Sgt. Cox's personal bravery and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Division and the United States Army.

Sgt. Cox has also been awarded the Purple Heart with First Oak Leaf Cluster. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charley Cox of Bean Lake, formerly of Iatan."

Donations Continue to Arrive at the Museum

Again, we at the museum, have been honored by a number of people who have entrusted parts of their family histories.

Mr. Donald Brown brought in several items, including a large group picture of children in Jordan school as well as a report card, from the same school, of Miles Brown's. He also gave us several books, an old letter from Henry Brown as well as an old sweeper manufactured in 1911 and several other items.

Zim Hull brought in an old scrapbook that had belonged to Rudy Eskridge with newspaper clippings, pictures and other articles and souvenirs having to do with the Weston football team of 1940-1941. He also brought us a colorful advertisement of the Brill Furniture Company.

Another item we have been entrusted with was a scrapbook following the movements and battles that Lt. Dan Leffel was in during World War II. This also includes the telegram sent to his young wife to inform him of his death from wounds received in battle on Okinawa. Leffel's sister was Minnie Murdock. This poignant donation was given anonymously.

The Nostalgia Store

at the Weston Historical Museum

Check us out through our website:
www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Annual Dinner Meeting

Sunday, November 8th * 6:00 pm



EVENTFUL
AT LOCUST GROVE

25180 County Rd JJ - Weston, Mo.

Meal Catered by Avalon Cafe



The Program

Skip Gatschet

An insightful and personal look into early aviation history – through a glimpse at the lives of Charlie and Rose Gatschet, a couple of early flyers.

Dinner Reservations are \$30 per person. Cash Bar.

Deadline for reservations is November 1st.

RESERVATION FORM

Please mail this form to:

Weston Historical Museum, P.O. Box 266, Weston, MO 64098

Name _____

Telephone _____

Number of Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Merriment and Rivalries And Challenges, Oh My!



This is the second part of our story about early Weston baseball teams.

Between September of 1898 and July of 1900 little was noted about the teams and their games, but then on the 15th of July of 1900, it was reported in *The Weston Chronicle*, "A very exciting game of baseball was played at the park here Sunday between Weston and Leavenworth. At the start it looked very much as if Weston was not going to get into the game at all, but when the boys reached the ninth inning a very pretty game was tied. Then began the tug. Twelve innings were required to pull the game out of the tie and Weston won by a score of 7 to 6."

Was this a game between Weston and a team from the city of Leavenworth or between Weston and a Fort Leavenworth team? Consequent articles show that evidently Weston did play both at different times.

This photo, taken in front of the St. George Hotel, identifies the members of the 1900 team. Back Row: John Harpst, Pitcher; Henry Benton, Center field; Lee Kenny, Right Field; Buster Guthrie, Pitcher

and short stop; Digger Wilson, Short stop. Second Row: Ben Richardson, 3rd base; Hugh Graves, Left field; Willard White, 1st base; Charlie Murdock, 2nd base and Henry Kenny, Catcher. Standing: Colonel Butler, umpire. Boy sitting on sidewalk with the mascot dog is Artie Baker.

Chief Rival Beaten

Weston's chief rivals came to town again for another game and it was reported thusly, "Platte City came to Weston last Sunday with her ball team. She came in her pomp and splendor. Her betting man was along — with his shekels and easy self-satisfied "we-cannot-be-beaten smile".

His voice was loud at noontide
As were his shirt and tie.
"We'll beat these chumps at ball," he said
Or know the reason why.
Three hours bring many changes,
But they brought no change to him.
They only took it from him,
For Weston had his tin.

Merriment and Rivalries . . .

There has been a good natured rivalry between Weston and Platte City for twenty-five years in the baseball line. Platte City plays ball well, but not well enough. From the files of an old paper we today glean the report of a contest on the diamond with the same old result.

The game was played at Platte City, June 1, 1875. The Platte City club was aggregated under the name of "Serenes" but the score was 31 to 19 against them, and the report of the games reads—'same story, Serenes scooped again.' In the twenty-five years which have flown since then the names of players and club have changed but not so the result. Though their name is now "Invincibles" their playing of last Sunday is 'the same old story—scooped again.' The reason for the defeat, assigned by the Invincibles is the umpire. The reason given by the Weston boys is Platte City couldn't make the runs. We didn't see the game and life is too short for us to attempt to explain the whereness of the whichness or the thisness of the then. Of one thing we are assured and that is that no club ever went forth to battle with a more loyal crowd of supporters than did Platte City's team last Sunday. Platte City is loyal unto herself and she is to be commended for it. . ."

"Twenty-five years ago the account gives the following names, Platte City: Dameron, Jenkins W., Neal Lutes, George Sims, Albert Belt, George Cartwright, Bonnell, H. Baker, John Murry. Weston: McCarten, James Mundy, Fred Butler, Warner, John Butler, Price, Wm. Butler, Wm. Herndon, Wilson.

The umpire of last Sunday's game was William Butler, one of the players of twenty-five years ago. Whatever may be said of his rulings, those who know him will say but one thing—he is honest.

We are told the game of Sunday was very interesting because the clubs were closely matched. . .The Platte City club is made up of pretty boys, prettily dressed who play ball pretty badly. . .The score was six to three in favor of Weston and those who played in this game were as follows:

Weston: White, Murdock, Wilson, H. Kenney, Guthrie, L. Kenney, B. Richardson, Harpst, and Graves.

Platte City: Sackett, Carrol, Rorhing, Baker, Coffey, Allison, Hicks, Edwards and Fleshman."

With such goading and gloating, it is no wonder the rivalry between the two towns. But the newspaper editors were also rivals and both loved the game of baseball.



Pictured above is the "Royals" baseball team from the early 1900's. Left to right, top row, are Arthur Hunt, Buster Guthrie, John Robbins, Fred Bentz, Henry Benton and Roscoe How. Seated are Ben Richardson, Jack Bernsten, Henry Kenney, John Harpst and Arthur Kelly

Did You Know. . .

. . . that in 1967 Mrs. A.P. Hill, who was the President of the Legion Auxiliary at the time, visited each grave in Weston's cemeteries on the morning of Memorial Day? She made certain that each had a cross and, weather permitting, a flag.

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. . . that Mrs. Clyde Rowland (Sigi) received her citizenship papers in December 1962? Sigi met "Buck" Rowland when he was stationed with the U.S. Army in Germany.

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. . . that the Platte County Fair Association, in conjunction with Nashua Nurseries, took on a project to beautify the Fairgrounds? In April 1964 it was decided to ask people to plant trees in Memory of other Platte County citizens. By the 17th of that month it was reported that 71 trees had been planted or pledged. Among the types of trees were soft maples, pin oaks, bald cypress, and large oak trees.

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. . . that a Benedictine monk was once a pupil of Mrs. Mabel Bell? A former Weston boy, Rev. Prosper Meyer attended classes as a young boy that were taught by Mabel Bell, in the Mary Bethune School here.

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. . . that Weston has had several Cigar Factories? There was one under the management of J.B. Hull in 1901; J.A. Artlip opened one in May of 1905 and later, in Dec. 1913; W.E. Welch opened one on the second floor of the Mettier Building.

Mystery Corner Updates

Thanks to our lovely Wednesday hostess, Terry Chapin, we were given some information about the ribbon in the last issue.

Doing research on the computer, Terry found that the letters on the ribbon—UBF stood for the United Brothers of Friendship and SMT was for the Sisters of the Mysterious Ten. It was a benevolent organization founded in 1861 by Marshall Taylor in Louisville, KY. The goals of the organization included spreading Christianity, caring for widows and orphans, assisting impoverished members with decent burials, purchasing property for lodge halls, caring for sick members, provide “relief” insurance for its members to cover sickness or death and encouraging youth to acquire an education or trade.

The picture is one taken from the internet. It appears that this organization was made up of African Americans and Weston had one of the clubs.

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Graduates of the Class of 1899, whose picture appeared on the front page of the *Museum Musings* earlier this year have been identified. Seated are Professor T.H. Potter, left and Egbert Hardesty, right. standing are (left to right) Allie Simpson, Lena Brill, Shortridge Hardesty and Maybelle Hamm.

We are grateful to our volunteers and readers for giving us answers that will help us in recording history for the future.



## 95 Years Ago, Women Won The Right to Vote

The right to vote for women came after much lobbying, much work, and much heartache on August 8, 1920.

Weston's first women's suffrage league was organized in December of 1917. Mrs. Charles Hillix was elected President. Miss Ruth Hardesty was Secretary; Mrs. S.G. Hazen, Vice President and Miss Edith Kemmerer, Treasurer.

These women along with the rest of the league held meetings, marched in parades and even “bucked” some of their own brothers, fathers and husbands in fighting for their rights. They encouraged women all over the county to get out and march for their rights, sign petitions, visit with lawmakers and to keep putting the pressure on all men to give them their equal right.

When, at last, Amendment XIX was brought up on a vote and it passed, women all over the U.S. rejoiced. That fall the “first election returns ever to be officially given over Western Union wires in Weston were received Tuesday night at the Eureka Theatre. . . Due to the unusually heavy vote through woman's first ballot and a greatly stimulated interest in the men's ballot, returns were late coming in, but by 10:00 o'clock most of the northeastern sections had been reported. . . The interest and enthusiasm of the ladies at these returns was especially marked and that the men enjoyed having them stay to receive the returns was also noticeable.”

Among the very first, if not the first, woman voter in Platte County was Mrs. Charles Hillix who arrived at the Weston polls over an hour early to stand in line for it to open.

Mrs. Adeline Hoy, ninety-six years old, of Hampton, was believed to be the oldest woman voter in the county.

New Feature

# Characters of Weston

## Joe, the Mooch Extraordinaire

Every morning shortly after eight o'clock, after all the individuals in the household were off to school and/or work, Joe would leave the house and begin a leisurely stroll down Main street, just a short half block from his home. He would go up and down both sides of the street, checking out the people, sight and sounds of his hometown.

Just about nine, he would amble down a back alley to the rear of the local grocery store. There, he would meet the elderly, affable butcher who would hand him tidbits of meat. Sometimes it would be a package of hotdogs, some darkened stew beef, or a slice or two of ham. When it was just the way he liked it, he would eat and contentedly lie back and take a nap.

Joe would stay around home the remainder of the morning, watching passersby, perhaps the birds or squirrels until a little after the noon hour. Then he would again amble down the street to the front door of the local hamburger establishment. Here the waitresses or the owner/cook, would provide him with a nice free meal of a hamburger and fries. Joe didn't have to say a word, it was just there waiting for him and he always seemed to be grateful and content.

Then it was off to the creek to see what was swimming or hopping there. Sometimes he would decide to wade in and get a bit wet. By that time, it was time to return to the house for an afternoon nap.

When school was finished for the day, around three-thirty, Joe was happy to see the children and often led them to the drug store. Here there was a large, mirror-backed soda fountain and counter and here Joe could find some of his favorites—an ice cream cone or a cold, frosty coke. Joe's was always free. Most often his favorite flavor of ice cream was just plain vanilla, but sometimes he was treated to a chocolate cone. The children always enjoyed his company and always enjoyed watching him make his selection of either the ice cream or the coke.

Finished with the delicious snack, it was home with the children, watching them play or do homework, followed with a hearty home cooked meal. Shortly after the meal, Joe would again take a short walk out to the end of his block or in the backyard.

Once the children were in bed, about ten o'clock each evening, Joe took headed downtown to the local bar where he could always get someone to buy

him a cold beer. Quietly he would imbibe the beverage that he enjoyed, but just one, no more. Then slowly he would make his way home for a good night's rest.

Joe loved children and often joined them for walks, playing, etc. His family tried their best to keep him at home and stop his constant roaming.

Joe seldom varied his routine except for the weekends, when he spent all of his time at his home with various members of the family, interested in their comings and goings and often mooching but to no avail. Through the years, many began to call Joe by another name – "Mooch" – and laughed at the fact that this four-legged creature was not just a dog, but a pooch that turned mooching into a high art.

## Did You Know . . .

. . . that 6-year-old twins, Raleigh and Katheigh Hull, daughters of Bill and Mary Ann of Weston, won a Blue Ribbon? The twins won the 1st Prize for the elementary division of the bathing beauty contest at the Platte County Fair in July 1967.

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. . . that the ZIP code (Zone Improvement Plan) went into effect in Weston on July 1st, 1963? The code was 64098 and all Weston residents were to use it on all of their correspondence. Kent Weigman was the Postmaster when this took effect.

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.

2015 Museum Officers

President	Carl Felling
Vice-President	Clay Bauske
Secretary	Francie Stoner
Treasurer	Ted Wilson
Director	Barb Fulk
Hostesses	Sigi Rowland Susan Grinlinton Terry Chapin



WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM
P.O. Box 266 • 601 Main Street • Weston, MO
64098



*“To know nothing of what
happened before you were
born, is to forever remain a
child.”*

Marcus Tullius Cicero

? **Mystery Corner**

Most people might recognize this pink house as being located on Washington Street. However, we here in the museum know very little about its history.

We do know that at one time it was owned by Mrs. Sarah Lindsey Weigman. We do not know any owners before and after Sarah.

Also unknown is when it was painted pink.

There is some reason to believe it was once a church or that it stands where a church once stood.

Anyone having any answers, please call Barb Fulk or Carolyn Larsen at the Museum, 816-386-2977. Thank you.

