

Museum Musings

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2017

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 601 MAIN STREET, HISTORIC WESTON, MISSOURI 816-386-2977

Visitors Intrigued with Antique Pinball Machine



Several weeks ago Mr. Bill Cecil of Plattsburg, Mo., and a West Platte graduate, donated a small, antique pinball machine to the Weston Historical Museum.

Made of walnut with a glass top and quite small (35 x 16 x 33 inches), the pinball machine is still in working condition. There are, however, no lights, no bells or whistles, no electricity – just a lever and the balls.

The machine, thought to have been built about 1920, was found by Bill and his father, O.V. Cecil, in the attic storeroom of Toonerville Tavern in Beverly around 1950, while they were doing some work for the owner Dan Cannon. He gave it to O.V., who spruced it up and displayed it in his home.

Many readers may remember the Toonerville Tavern, which was a gathering place for teens and young families in its heyday. It sat where several Beverly businesses have been over the years.

Since on display, visitors have found the pinball machine an interesting and amazing addition. Museum staff and volunteers enjoyed checking it out (and okay, taking a few pulls) before the "do not touch" signs were put on it!

We wish to thank Bill Cecil for his donation. This is just one of many items this generous former citizen of the Weston area has given to the Museum. They are all appreciated.

Annual Meeting Planned for Nov. 12th

This year's Annual Trustees' Meeting will be held Sunday, November 12th at Eventful at Locust Grove in Weston. In a change from the past, there will be a social hour with cash bar and hors d'ouerves beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be no sit-down dinner.

The business portion will start at 6:30 p.m. and will include a progress report on the activities of the Museum during the past year by President Carl Felling. An election of officers and trustees for next year will also be held.

Following the business meeting, Mr. Harrison Shipman from McCormick Distillery will be our guest speaker. His presentation will include a slide show of photos from the history files of the distillery along with information outlining the growth of this great Weston institution. Harrison has been with Holladay Distillery since 2015 and is an integral part of building the distillery's tour experience.

Cost for the evening's activities is \$20.00 per person. The deadline for reservations is November 5th. A reservation form is included in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there.

Information Sought on J & N Station

Stanley Taulbee of Weston is working with others on the new Moonshiners Car Clubhouse in the old gas station, located at the corner of Market and Main. Until a few years ago, it had remained a station/garage owned by the Hiatt Family. Most recently Leann Hiatt ran a small boutique in the space.

This past month, Stanley contacted the Museum asking for help in locating any photographs of the station from the 1950s. At the time, it was known J & N Station and was owned by his relatives. Many Westonians will remember it as the Nichols place.

Anyone with information is welcome to get in touch with us at the Museum, 386-2977, or contact Stanley Taulbee directly.

Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

James Richardson, "Walking Jim" as he was known, was with the 224th Regiment during the Korean War. Richardson was awarded the Blue and Silver Infantryman's badge by Major General Hudelson for bravery above and beyond the call. Major General Hudelson took the badge from his own uniform and pinned it on Walking Jim at the scene of his heroic action, noting that Richardson "carried his radioman down an icy trail on which men were crawling on their hands and knees to escape injury from ice and wounds from the enemy."

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An issue of *The Weston Chronicle* dated August 18, 1969 reads: Temperatures of over 100 degrees have baked Weston since July and 90 degrees for the entire week before.

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An item of interest dated June 21, 1963 relates "The ZIP Code will go into effect for Weston as of July 1. Everyone in Weston will use the ZIP Code (64098) on all of their correspondence to speed mail deliveries and reduce the chance of mis-sent mail," says Acting Postmaster Kent Weigman. As an aside to this piece of news, *The Weston Chronicle* had to remake every one of their addressing stencils on this occasion. Over 800 stencils had to be re-typed with street, town, state and zip codes. This was quite an undertaking which took several weeks of prep and resulted in many sore fingers as one had to strike the typewriter keys firmly to make the cut into the special cardboard/paper stencils.

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*The Weston Chronicle*, dated June 23, 1967 gives us this: Mr. Charles Fischer has signed a contract as Supt. of Schools with the West Platte R-II District. Mr. and Mrs. Fischer have three daughters; Cheryl is 9 years old; Debbie is 7, and Paula, who is 5.

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In September 1960 we read "Mr. Alfred Hasemeier, County Librarian, became a charter member of the The Weston Historical Museum. He was also among the lists as ex-officio trustee for the Museum.

Al's wife, Jane, also became a Charter Member.

The Nostalgia Store
at the Weston Historical Museum
Remember Us for Christmas Shopping!

Weird and Interesting Facts of History

In order to bolster the U.S. Army's numbers in World War I, the government instituted a draft in 1917. Approximately 27 million men were drafted and another 1.3 million volunteered for "the war to end all wars."

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British merchant ships carrying food and supplies were often sunk by enemy torpedoes. An artist and Royal Navy Volunteer came up with an idea of covering ships in bold shapes and bright colors. The "dazzle" camouflage was supposed to confuse the enemy rather than conceal the ship. How well this worked after the first encounter we don't seem to have a record for.

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German General Dietrich Von Saucken was a mon-ocled patrician general with a long history of service to his country. He had been wounded seven times in battle and was decorated for valour by his government. In February of 1945, Gen. von Saucken insisted that it was pointless to continue to fight what was obviously by then a losing battle. He openly showed his contempt for Hitler and his beliefs, having little faith in his command of the military. At one point in a gathering with other military leaders and the Chancellor, he was commanded by Hitler to take orders from a local Nazi party leader. In response von Saucken slammed his hand down on the table where Hitler was studying maps and told him he would refuse that order and did so. He turned his back on Hitler and left, never to see The Fuher again.

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Of the 12 people who have walked on the moon, 11 were former Boy Scouts of America. In fact, since 1959 there have been 39 astronauts who were Eagle Scouts, the highest honor given to a Boy Scout.

## 2017 Museum Officers

|                      |                                                  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| President .....      | Carl Felling                                     |
| Vice-President ..... | Clay Bauske                                      |
| Secretary .....      | Francie Stoner                                   |
| Treasurer .....      | Ted Wilson                                       |
| Director .....       | Barb Fulk                                        |
| Hostesses .....      | Sigi Rowland<br>Susan Grinlinton<br>Terri Chapin |

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

# Annual Dinner Meeting

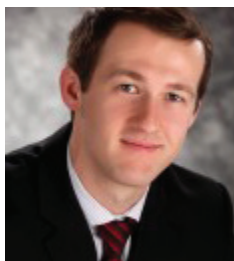
Sunday, November 12th

Social Hour 6:00 pm \* Meeting 6:30 pm



**EVENTFUL**  
AT LOCUST GROVE

25180 County Rd JJ - Weston, Mo.



## The Program

Harrison Shipman

*"Holladay Distillery, 161 Years from the Beginning to Modern Day Developments"*

Reservations are \$20 per person. Cash Bar & Hors d'Oeuvres.

*Deadline for reservations is November 6th.*

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## RESERVATION FORM

Please mail this form to:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## Letters Home Give Outlook on History

*The Weston Chronicle*, at one time, ran a column called "The Mailbag". In it would be letters from all over the world, written by servicemen, students at West Platte and former residents of Weston.

The following are two such letters. one is dated in 1919 and the second one is believed to have been written around 1938.

Feb. 18, 1919

How is the world treating you by now? I have been feeling pretty bum the last few days. I have an awful cold, was on guard last night and it got chilly and I couldn't leave my post so I caught an awful cold. But am feeling pretty good now.

We have been drilling hard for the past two weeks. We are finishing up our skirmish drill and our code of signaling, we have got so far that we can understand each other 1/2 mile away. It is so interesting. We have half an hour of inspection every morning. And of all the inspections; I have never heard or knew of so many, but it teaches a fellow a whole lot. The military courtesy and restriction sure is instructive, and it will help one on the outside.

We have also finished the rifle range it was pretty interesting. We were on the range three weeks, we had to "hit the deck," or get out of bed at 3:15 and eat (chow) breakfast at 5 o'clock and hiked 4-1/2 miles to the range for three weeks - maybe you think it didn't get tiresome. But I made good, so I don't regret it. I made the highest record in Co. 456 and received a \$20 bill for record prize. I hit 265 bulls eyes out of 300 possible. The next was 260, he received \$10 bill. The company chipped in the night before record day and I didn't have the least idea of getting it, but was lucky that time. I received an expert rifleman's badge there were 14 experts, 22 sharpshooter, 26 marksmen and 6 unqualified men, that was an almost record breaking company. You have to shoot 253 for expert, 238 for sharpshooter, and 202 for marksman.

It is almost like home over here now. We have electric lights, shower bath houses, and real houses to live in. Over at the maneuver grounds we had oil stoves and tents, no lights at all except our stoves, you can imagine it was nice shaving and dressing in the dark. Well I have to sew some buttons on my overcoat and haven't much more time. I think I will be home soon. But don't look for me before you see me coming. Tell Alice and Mrs. Speer hello.

Sincerely, Pvt. R.W. Brown  
Co. 456 Batt. D

## Remembering Weston Opera House

From Mrs. Amelia Dietz Schwein of Pasadena, came a letter some time ago with a most fragile but intriguing little program given fifty years ago last December.

Mrs. Schwein is the daughter of the late Matt Dietz who lived in a large rambling brick house located at 812 Thomas where B.J. Bless now lives. In fact, Mr. Bless made his home for a number of years with the Dietz family, and later bought their homesite. She is the mother of several fine sons, two of whom rank high in the military and naval circles of our land.

Mrs. Schwein secured the program from Mrs. Lydia Barth, nee Hamm, daughter of Mrs. Josephine Hamm, an old music teacher who taught many years ago in Weston. This program was among Mrs. Hamm's effects now on possession of Mrs. Barth.

The program is a single sheet about four by six inches elaborately ornamented. It was for a "Catholic Concert, Monday, December 26, 1887, Weston Opera House, Weston, MO."

The numbers themselves are in such small print that one can faintly imagine the squinting it took to read it under old-fashioned coal-oil lamps of that day. Many of the participating artists have gone to their eternal reward. Following is part of the "Programme":

Overture -- "Siege of Paris", Miss Alberta Whisman and W. A. Keller. "Fra Dravola", Mrs. G.W. Evans; "When 'tis Moonlight," Miss Lou Krutz; "Stradella", Mrs. Jacquemin and Miss Amelia Dietz.

"Bohemian Girl", Mr. and Miss Kenney and W.A. Keller; "Dei Drei Rosen", Miss Alberta Whisman and W.A. Keller; "Masaniello", Mrs. Jacquemin and Miss Amelia Dietz; "Lucretia Borgia", Mr. and Miss Kenney; and "Come Where the Violets Bloom", Chorus.

## Looking for Something Interesting to Do?

The Museum will be closing in mid-December for the winter. Come late January, however, work will begin on changing and refurbishing some displays throughout the museum.

Additionally cataloguing, filing, labeling and research will continue as usual. Volunteers are always appreciated on "Work Day Mondays."

When re-opening in mid-March substitute hostesses are also welcomed.

If you can help in any way, please let us know by calling 386-2977 for more information or to volunteer a couple of hours of your time.

# A Bridge at a Bargain

by Diana Lambdin Meyer

*The following article was sent to us by Kenneth Klamm, via Chuck McCardie, both Platte County history buffs. It was written by Diana Lambdin Meyer and appeared in "The Kansas City Star" on September 17, 2003. The photographer's tag line has been lost to fading, so we are unsure who took the picture.*

*Mr. Klamm posts a great deal of historical information about Parkville and southern Platte County on the "Parkville Missouri History" Facebook page. As reported previously, Mr. McCardie has frequently donated articles and pictures to the Museum that he has found on-line through his browsing. He, too, posts on Facebook groups such as "Remember When in . . . Weston".*

*Diana Lambdin Meyer also lives in Parkville and is a freelance writer. You can follow her travel stories on her blog [mojotraveler.com](http://mojotraveler.com) or follow her on Twitter and Instagram @ [mojotraveler](https://www.instagram.com/mojotraveler) as well.*

The adage that one man's trash is another man's treasure certainly rings true for the cities of Parkville and Kansas City, Kan.

The trash/treasure is a bridge, delivered last week to Parkville's English Landing Park for the garage sale price of about \$2,500.

Kansas City, Kan. wanted to get rid of the bridge to enhance its riverfront park. Parkville wanted the bridge to enhance its riverfront park.

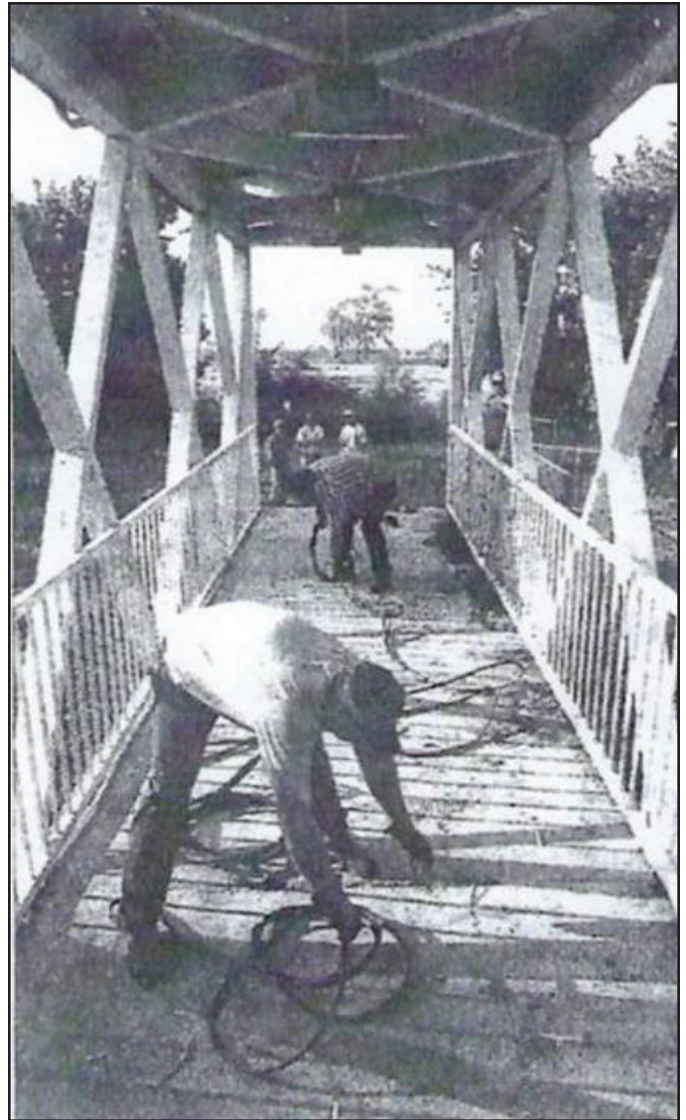
"The timing couldn't have been more perfect and it just came out of nowhere," said Pat Hawver, Parkville City administrator.

In making its new home in Parkville, the bridge is returning to its Platte County roots.

The 53-foot covered walkway originally was the gangplank for the Argosy Casino in Riverside when the riverboat opened in June 1994. When a more permanent facility was created in 1996, river construction engineer John Massman bought the gangplank without any specific plans for its use. It temporarily was stored at Kaw Point in Kansas City, Kan., and later was donated to the park.

Now the city of Kansas City, Kan., and the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission are trying to clean up Kaw Point, which had become somewhat of a dumping ground, in anticipation of a national Lewis and Clark bicentennial event scheduled next summer in metropolitan Kansas City.

Nearly 200 years ago, their expedition camped three days at the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri rivers on its way to the Pacific Ocean.



*Robert Wilson (foreground) and George Coulter of Haggard Hauling and Rigging Inc. last week helped move a 53-foot bridge to Parkville.*

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to visit the region -- and Kaw Point specifically -- as a re-enactment team camps there for three days.

Mike Calwell is one of many volunteers recruited to help make Kaw Point presentable.

"My first thought was Parkville and that beautiful riverfront park there," Calwell said.

A call on July 15 to City Administrator Pat Hawver received an enthusiastic and immediate response.

What Calwell and those involved with Kaw Point had no idea of knowing is that Parkville has a riverfront master plan with a 16-item checklist of improvements for English

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Did You Know . . .

. . . that the term "Hello Girls" came before "operator" was used? Among them were Misses Minnie Unmessig, Grace Linville, Geneva Kirkendahl, Hattie Holladay and Velva Rowland.

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. . . that President Howard Taft was the first president to throw the ceremonial "first pitch" at an American baseball game?

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. . . that Ethel Dydell Kelly and Margerine Dydell Anderson were sisters? They were both long-time employees of the Weston Hotel (once and again The St. George hotel on Main Street)

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. . . that there's a desk of candy on the floor of the U.S. Senate? This is an on-going tradition started in 1968 by California Senator George Murphy who, despite a no eating rule on the floor, did so anyhow. Since then the tradition has been for one senator to take over "maintenance" of the desk for a session. This year it is held by Illinois Senator Mark Kirk, who fills the desk with Illinois candies—Mars Bars, Jelly Bars and Wrigley's gum. They will get a better deal when a Missouri Senator takes over and can give Cherry Mash and Russell Stover's candy.

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. . . that the Weston Pink Ribbon Club was a dancing club? Comprised of single and young married women, they enjoyed teas and picnics along with musical evenings at the homes of the members.

Among the members were Mary Robbins, Hattie Graves, Dainty Woods, Maud Poss, Dora Baker and Polly Rumpel.

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. . . that the Weston Klan Hall stood at the corner of Thomas and Washington Streets in the building known as the old Presbyterian Church? At the time of the KKK meetings here, the building was no longer used as a church, but in later years was restored to its religious beginning, this time as the Christian Assembly Church.

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. . . that Abraham Lincoln was the only President to own a patent? His patent was for a device to lift boats over sandbars.

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. . . that a Mayor of Weston could sew and embroider expertly? Mayor M.R. Waggoner could also bake a batch of excellent cookies. Mayor Waggoner would be called a Renaissance Man today, what with his domestic talents, his ability to bring the citizens of Weston together to make great strides in city infrastructure, not the least of which was the Thomas Street Bridge. His greatest talent, however was his artistry with pen and ink. He often decorated his

letters with a drawing relevant to the subject upon which he was writing.

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. . . that Carol Chapin, from the Sugar Lake area, was presented with her wings as a TWA hostess in 1966? The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Chapin, Carol is a graduate of West Platte and attended St. Joseph College.

## A Bridge at a Bargain . . .

*(Continued from Page 5)*

Landing Park.

"We developed the master plan in 1995 after the casino proposition went away in Parkville," Hawver said. "A new walking bridge across the White Alloe Creek is our top priority for 2004."

The former Argosy gangplank is 53 feet long and 10 feet wide. The steel bridge has a 4-inch-deep concrete walking surface. A roof and lighting are already in place.

"It is a perfect fit and a much more substantial bridge than we would have been able to afford otherwise," Hawver said. "It's big enough and sturdy enough to drive across, but that isn't part of the plan."

Moving the 40,000-pound bridge was the next consideration.

The original thought was to load it on a barge by crane at Kaw Point and float it upriver the Parkville. However, low river levels this summer made it impossible for a crane on shore at either location to reach a barge carrying the bridge in the water.

Lady Luck continued to smile on Parkville.

One of the newest members of the city's planning commission is John Haggard, who owns Haggard Hauling. He volunteered the services of his company at no cost to move the structure via flatbread trailer

So Sept. 9 before dawn, a crane lifted the bridge onto and 18-wheeler, which made its way through the Fairfax district and to English Landing Park. There it sits behind the water-treatment plant and ball field.

Though the bridge is free, except for the hauling, the city has not yet budgeted for the abutments and other necessary support structures.

"I fully anticipate the Board of Aldermen will move ahead to allocate the funds needed to get this ready as soon as possible," Hawver said. "I would like to see it ready by Christmas on the River."

After the bridge is in place, minor repairs will be made and it will be repainted. Hawver expects a total investment of \$22,000 -- a savings of about \$20,000.

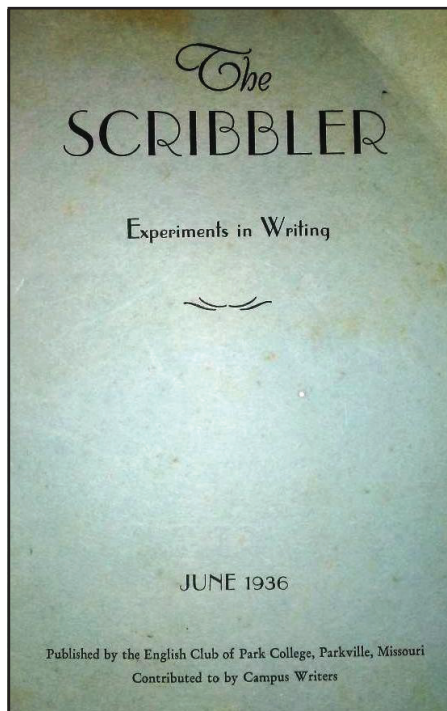
The bridge will enhance the 7-mile walking trail around English Landing Park, which is used by about 55,000 people a year.



## Toonerville, circa 1945

located at the junction of Highways 45 and 92 in Beverly, Missouri.

## Park College Booklet Dates to 1936



In some papers of Mrs. B. J. Bless, Jr., was found a small booklet entitled “The Scribbler (Experiments in Writing)” and dated June 1936. Published by the English Club of Park College, the Editor was Merle McCure.

The booklet contains poems and a commentary or two, all written by members of the club.

Among the names of contributors for the publication are Macom Higgins, Joseph Lonsdale, Roberta Hackman, Barbara Mandigo and Ruloff Rulufson.



The top of the antique pinball machine recently donated to the Weston Museum by Bill Cecil, a former Platte County resident now living in Plattsburg.

Purely no-tech by today’s standards, the machine was found in storage at the Old Toonerville Tavern in Beverly almost 70 years ago.

It is currently on display at the Museum, which is open 1:00 to 4:00 Tuesday through Saturday and 1:30 to 4:30 on Sundays.

*“Delayed obedience is the brother of disobedience.”*



## WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

*Truth can never be  
confined to time and culture;  
in history it is known, but it  
also reaches beyond history.*

– Pope John Paul II



# ? Mystery Corner

A collection of unidentified old photos was donated recently to the Museum. The staff and volunteers, along with the help of a few long-time Weston residents, were able to identify a number of the photos' subjects. However, this photo has everyone stumped.

It is the interior of a grocery store, obviously. But who's store? It appears to have been taken in the 1930's-1940's. Does anyone know where it might have been located? Is it even a Weston business?



Give us a call at 386-2977 or drop by for a visit and chat about it and many other interesting items in your local Museum.