

Pratt County Historical Society

March 2008 Newsletter

208 S. Ninnescah Pratt, KS 67124 620-672-7874

Mon – Fri 1 to 4 Sat – Sun 1 to 3

Email address: pchsmuseum@sctelcom.net Website: prattkan.com

President: Marvin Proctor

Secretary: Ulanda Steibben

Vice President: Ross Hoener

Treasurer: Linda Brehm

Other Board Members: Darrel Brehm, Marjorie Buck, Marion Fiegel, Thad Henry, Jerry Seimens, Gary Skaggs and Rose Wehling

Curator: Marsha Brown Office Manager: Sandra Hetrick PR Chairman: Eunice Proctor

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Another year has gone by, and it's time, again, for the Annual Meeting. On Sunday, March 16th, at 2 o'clock, President Marvin Proctor will bring everyone up to date on what's been going on at the museum this past year, and tell about plans for the coming year.

Four positions on the Board are up for election. Marjorie Buck, Marion Fiegel, Marvin Proctor and Jerry Seimens have agreed to be nominated, again. Nominations will be announced and a vote will be taken amongst the members in attendance.

The guest speaker will be Gale Rose, of the Pratt Tribune. He will be telling about some of the history of Cullison. Members of the Rose family have been long time residents of Pratt County.

Afterwards, refreshments will be served and everyone will have the opportunity to visit with others and enjoy the afternoon.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2007 Annual Meeting was called to order by President, Thad Henry. A brief financial report was given. He recounted the events of the past year.

The election of Board members was held. Darrel Brehm and Thad Henry will return as members and Marion Fiegel (finishing out the term of Eric Nystrom) and Rose Wehling will join the Board for the first time.

Guest speaker was Greg Wolf, of the Sand Creek Old German Baptist Church of Sawyer. He told of the 107 year history of the church in Sawyer. It was a very interesting program.

Nathan Schepmann thanked the Board and all the volunteers for all the work they do at the museum.

There were 40 members in attendance.

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NEW MUSEUM HOST COORDINATOR

After two years of helping with the host scheduling, Martha Kramer relinquished the position. Liz Henry, wife of board member,

Thad Henry, has agreed to become the new host coordinator. Anyone who would like to volunteer as a host at the museum may contact Liz at 672-3237.

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY

2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of the Pratt County Historical Society.

Marsha brought this to the attention of the Board at their meeting in February. Plans will be discussed later on how to possibly celebrate this milestone. It was suggested that we honor the people who started the Society and the ones who have made the museum what it is today. We will be announcing future plans at a later date. If anyone has any suggestions they would like to mention, please let us know!

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SPEAKING OF CELEBRATIONS.....

The luka Methodist Church is 130 years old this year. It was started in 1878.

Two friendship quilts made by the ladies of the church in the 1930's are being displayed in the Susan H. Hess Memorial Room.

A maroon and white quilt, believed to have been made in the early 1930's, has family members names stitched in the blocks. This quilt was given to the museum by Margaret Patton.

A beautiful patchwork fan quilt, with the date of January 15, 1936, has names of the ladies in the church, and we believe their children's names, stitched around the fans. This quilt was given by Marjorie Taylor Buck.

Come to the museum and see these two wonderful quilts, while they are on display. Perhaps you will find a familiar name and it will bring back happy thoughts from years ago.

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STARTING A NEW FUNDRAISER

Back in 1978, George Mueller gave the museum a microfilm reader and microfilm reels of the Pratt Union from the 1890's through 1950. Portia Terry later gave reels of the Sawyer News. With the explosion of interest in

genealogy in the past few years, it has come to our attention that we are in need of a microfilm reader-printer. In doing family history research, most people want a copy of an original article from a newspaper, such as announcements of births, deaths and marriages. Also, in doing Pratt city and county history research, it would
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Portia Terry Nov. 17, 2007
Nelle Howell Feb. 5, 2008

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We welcome Susan Barr and Raymon and Rita Parker as new hosts.

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Have you checked out the Pratt Army Air Field website? A big "Thanks" goes out to Milt Martin for all he is doing to make it a great site to visit. Go to: prattarmyairfield.com.

FUND RAISER continued
it would be nice, many times, to copy an article or advertisement.

Marsha has contacted a company who has like-new microfilm reader-printers, at less than new prices. The total cost, including shipping and maintenance insurance contract will be approximately \$ 2,300. We are seeking donations from the Society's membership.

Marsha will explain more about this at the annual meeting. If the goal is met, and a reader-printer is bought, then the possibility of purchasing microfilm of other Pratt County newspapers of the past could be made on a sponsorship basis. Other historical societies have done this, and it has proved to be quite popular. Marsha said that she would start off the campaign herself, by purchasing the reel of the "Pratt County Democrat", one of the Saratoga papers.

SOCIETY TEACHES STUDENTS

January was a busy month at the museum, with students coming to learn about pioneer times for Kansas Day. The 2nd and 4th grade classes from Southwest Elementary, the 5th grade and Mr. Albers' middle school class from Skyline, and the entire kindergarten through 5th grade classes of Sacred Heart all toured the museum.

In February, Marsha participated in the "Laura Ingalls Wilder Day" at the public library. All the 3rd grade classes of Southwest, Haskins, Sacred Heart and Skyline attend this annual event. This year Marsha took things that represented the "chores of the week" of the pioneer housewife. Monday-wash day, Tuesday-ironing, Wednesday-mending, Thursday-butter churning, Friday-cleaning house, and Saturday-baking. And, Sunday? They rested.....

The Society wishes to remember the deaths of their members who have died in the past year:

Richard Mardis June 2, 2007
James Manning Sept. 21, 2007

Have you seen the Pratt High School display at the museum? Beside lots of “green and white”, there is also some “maroon and white”. Yes, PHS’s colors used to be maroon and white many years ago.

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The ceiling in the chapel is undergoing a bit of remodeling. Through the years, the tiles have hardened with age and were starting to fall down. Jerry, Marvin and Thad have been tearing down the old tiles and removing the staples, getting it ready to install the new tiles. Wedding season is coming, guys!

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Those members who pay annually, your 2008 dues are due now. \$ 10 per person annually or \$ 75 for a Lifetime membership.