

Pratt County Historical Society

March 2009 Newsletter

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

Mon – Fri 1 to 4 Sat – Sun 1 to 3

Email: pchsmuseum@sctelcom.net NEW Website: prattcountymuseum.org

President: Marvin Proctor

Secretary: Marjorie Buck

Vice President: Ross Hoener

Treasurer: Linda Brehm

Other Board Members: Darrel Brehm, Marion Fiegel, Thad Henry, Jerry Siemens,

Gary Skaggs, Ulanda Stiebben and Rose Wehling

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

2009 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Pratt County Historical Society annual membership meeting will be held this coming Sunday, March 22nd at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the museum. This year there will be two positions on the Board to be filled. Ross Hoener and Linda Brehm have chosen not to remain on the Board. Gary Skaggs and Ulanda Stiebben, however will retain their positions.

The two people who have been chosen to fill the vacant chairs, are well known around Pratt:

MADLINE MARTIN grew up on a farm in Henderson, Nebraska. (Go Big Red!) She is a graduate of WSU, with a music education degree. She taught elementary vocal music in the Wichita school system for 6 years. She met and married Milt in 1970. They moved to Pratt, in 1975, when their first son was six months old. Their second son was born two years later. She was a teacher's aide and para at Skyline and the Special Ed Co-op in Iuka for 17 years. She retired after the 2007 school year, but went back part-time this year. When asked what her hobby is, she will tell you "Quilting, quilting, quilting!"

DON FINCHAM is the fourth generation of a Pratt County family. His great-grandfather, Cornelius Fincham, settled south of Saratoga back in the late 1800's. Don and his wife, Karen, live in the home built by Don's grandfather, Albert Fincham. Don's son, Mark, is now the 5th generation in the family farming business. They are members of the Century Family Farms. Don attended Kansas State University. (Go Cats!)

Other nominations will be accepted from the floor, by President Marvin Proctor. A vote will be taken amongst the members and the new Board members will be welcomed.

Marvin will give a report on the activities at the museum from the past year, and the ones that are planned for the future.

Our guest speaker will be Mildred Eubank. She will tell about some of the interesting history about Coats.

Afterwards, we will celebrate Spring with Easter goodies.

So, everyone plan to attend the meeting, and enjoy the afternoon and the museum!

SUNDAY MARCH 22nd at 2 O'CLOCK

SEE YOU THERE! ☺

MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

President Marvin Proctor called the meeting to order. He gave a short report of the accomplishments of 2007 and future goals for 2008. Marsha Brown kicked off the Microfilm Reader-Printer fundraiser. The four Board members whose positions were up for election, all decided to run again for another 3-year term.

Marvin made mention of ways to give to the museum: direct contributions, memorials and the endowment fund set up by Lucille Asher's son, through the South Central Community Foundation. The speaker, Gale Rose, gave a humorous history of Cullison. After much reminiscing, the meeting was adjourned. Refreshments were served.

NEW STYLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Everyone will notice with this newsletter, that we've decided to do it a little differently.

Doing the tri-fold newsletter was becoming a problem with the postal service regulations. Fold here, tape there, do it THIS way, not THAT way, use heavier paper.

We always had to leave a blank space for the address on the front, and a blank space on the back for the label to be put into place, when folded over.

With this new way of doing things, we can use that space for more news!

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Historical Society back in November of last year. And, what a celebration it was! A little over 500 people attended the festivities.

Visitors were greeted at the door by Liz Henry, Marji Buck and Rose Wehling, while Sandra Hetrick was nearby taking new memberships and selling books.

Veryl Keeter was in Gallery One making modern day arrowheads. Dorothea Giannangelo was stationed by the model of Skunk Johnson's cave, that her dad, J. Rufus Gray, had made many years ago. Jack Black, along with "Judge Renner" were in the courtroom. Dr. Van Blaricum was back in familiar territory in the dentist office. Marj Gillig, Delores Goyen and Shirley Lawton were handing out pencils at the one-room school. Members of the Apple Patch Quilter's Guild were quilting in Grandma's Garden, while Ulanda Stiebben would let you try out a stereoscope.

Helen Miller was by the Jett's display and our own Thad Henry would take you through the steps on how a broom was made at the broom making display. Wayne Konkel was showing off his toaster and waffle iron collection. Nathan Schepmann was in the barn telling stories, while Curtis Garten was at the Blacksmith shop. Don Detwiler was "stationed" at the railroad, and David Kramer and his crew were at the fire station.

Members of the Coterie (which is the longest running club in Pratt County) were, where else, in the Coterie library. Stan Reimer was in the photography studio and Richard Scott would welcome visitors to the military section.

Martha Kramer, Georgeanne Davault, Pam Burleson and Marilyn Wilt, all former soda fountain "girls" served ice cream sundaes at the soda fountain, while Linda Brehm and Yvonne Wray served cookies and drinks on Main Street. Speaking of Main Street, Marion Fiegel was outside the barber shop and Vada Austin was giving out stick candy at the General Store.

Upstairs, Kim Stivers, the public relations person of PRMC, was at the hospital display. Miss Kansas 1984, Nancy Cobb Kisner, (who still looks fantastic, by the way) was at the Miss Kansas display. Frank and Marcy Allbritten were welcoming people into the chapel. They have lived in the old Cairo church (where the pews, etc came from) for several years.

Gene Brehm was going around filming and interviewing people in attendance, while Marvin and Eunice Proctor and Marsha Brown were going around, making sure that everyone was enjoying themselves.

A BIG "Thank You!" goes out to all those who helped make our 40th Anniversary a success!

SOME OF THE MUSEUM HAPPENINGS OF 2008

- 1) New state "tourist attraction" signs were put up at the corner of First and Ninnescah.
- 2) A new bright yellow sign was put up at the same corner, courtesy of the Pratt Regional Tourism.
- 3) We received the arrowhead collection of Clarence Beck. It is being displayed in Gallery One.
- 4) Milt Martin created our new website:
prattcountymuseum.org
- 5) The Society had a booth at the Pratt County Fair.
- 6) Members of the Society manned the South Central Kansas Tourism booth at the Kansas State Fair.
- 7) Purchased a new microfilm reader-printer, thanks to the very generous donations of the society members and of the estate of Portia Terry.
- 8) The front window was replaced with Low-E energy-efficient glass. It's great to see the sun, again!
- 9) Had the 40th Anniversary celebration.
- 10) Was open for the Chamber of Commerce's "Old Fashioned Christmas" celebration.

MARSHA BEING KEPT BUSY

In February of this year, Marsha participated in the Laura Ingalls Wilder Birthday event at the Pratt Public Library. It is for all the 3rd graders in the area. Rochelle Westerhaus tells them about when Laura was a girl, and Marsha showed things that the pioneers would have used in their everyday life.

In March, she spoke at the Pilot Club's noon luncheon meeting. And, in April, she will be the guest speaker at the Kiwanis Club breakfast meeting.

She kids that she going out on the speaker circuit. She won't get rich, but she'll get free meals!

MUSEUM AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS

The museum is available for club meetings, organizational meetings, class reunions, family reunions, and small weddings.

Last year there were a few class reunions held here, along with the Pratt Tourism Committee. We didn't have any weddings last year, which is unusual because we've been having at least one a year. A couple had asked about it, but it was during the time that we were replacing the ceiling and polishing the floor. The Class of 1959 will be here the weekend of May 16th, as they celebrate their 50th class reunion. Does that make you feel OLD, Gary Skaggs????

Call the office during open hours to set up your meeting dates.

VISITOR COMMENTS

A couple from California: "This is ASTONISHING! This is truly fantastic! I take my hat off to you!"

A woman from Canada: "Great family history was found in your research library!"

A man from Wichita: Real nice! I'll be back!"

Another couple from California: "Excellent! We were very impressed."

A couple from Brighton, IL: "Thank you for being here!"

From kids: "Awesome!"
"This place is neat!"
"LOVED IT!"
"WOW !!!"
"This is the coolest place!"

So, it sounds like we're doing something right around here! Let's keep up the good work!

Pass the word around about our "astonishing, fantastic, excellent, awesome" museum ! ☺

ADDITIONS TO OUR MICROFILMS

Here at the museum, we have the Pratt Union from 1890 through 1947. There are three more rolls that would finish out the entire collection of the Pratt Union. Each roll is \$ 40 through the Kansas State Historical Society. If you would like to contribute to the fund, to help get the last three rolls, send your checks to the museum.

Marsha also has a list of microfilms of the small town newspapers in Pratt County. If anyone would like to help purchase any of them, please contact Marsha.

There is SO much history of Pratt county in the old newspapers from years past. They are also a great source of family history to those who are into genealogy.

SPEAKING OF FAMILY HISTORY.....

There's not a week that goes by that we don't get requests for family history look-ups. Through the mail, emails, phone calls or people coming in, they are all curious about their ancestors.

We get so many compliments on our research library materials. Many people have said that they've been in larger museum libraries that don't have as much as we do.

If you have put together a history of YOUR family who has Pratt County ties, we would like to have a copy of it for our library. No matter how big or small, bring it in!

ITEMS WANTED FROM PRATT COUNTY

We always want to remind everyone that this is a COUNTY museum. So, all you people in the small towns, remember us when you come across things that the museum would love to have. Any memorabilia from your town would be appreciated. The history of the small towns is fading fast. We need to do all we can to preserve the history of our county!

Get your children and grandchildren involved in wanting to learn about and preserving Pratt County history. Tell them about when you were growing up. The businesses in your town, the school you attended, the memories that will be gone when YOU'RE gone.

We need to write all this history down for future generations. The world is changing so fast, that kids won't believe that you used to MAKE butter, or you used to sit around and "watch" the radio. That you had to crank up an old car, or went to the barber shop for a shave.

So, get out your paper and pencils, or sit down at your computer and start reminiscing!

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

For those of you who pay your dues annually, and have not done so, yet, please take notice that at the first of the year, it has now become \$ 15 for a year OR \$100 for a lifetime membership.

We always welcome you to encourage friends and family members to help support the Society by becoming new members.

FEIST YELLOW BOOK LOGO

Again, this year, we are honored to have the Fiest Yellow Book place an ad for our the museum across the right hand corner on their cover. They have agreed to do this as a "trade" if we put their logo on our newsletter. A deal we can't turn down! So, please take notice of their logo across the LEFT hand corner on the front page of OUR newsletter. Thank you, Fiest!

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COMING SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd AT 2 O'CLOCK !!**