OUR PIONEER VISITOR

July 9, 2004 a period of Osage Mission/St. Paul history was repeated with the arrival at the museum of Zener E. Blackbull, an Osage Indian. He had embarked from Warren Co., Missouri to repeat what he determined would have been a seventh-year pilgrimage, Traveling Rain Mission of his ancestors to Pawhuska, Oklahoma, Osage Nation-Indian Territory.

Upon his entrance at the museum he indicated by hand-movement that he had parked out there. No mode of transportation was observed in the parking area. The visitor had parked his 40lb. pack and his tethered horse named Shinka in the wildlife area about one-half mile south of the museum on Udal Road.

Trying not to be too inquisitive, I observed that he was wearing a Kansas University T-Shirt. When queried regarding his connection with KU it was revealed the shirt was a gift. This opened the discussion on the rainy weather condition that he had encountered in Kansas the delay of a week before departure from Ft. Scott to St. Paul, KS. Upon a visit to his campsite it was noted that clothing was hung to dry on the shrubbery. When asked if he needed anything, it was learned that he could use dry clothing, candles and grain for his horse. Items provided included a Sesquicentennial shirt, shorts, socks and candles, but in the absence of a feed store, Shinka had to continue to relay on his supply of grass.

It was my pleasure to have had this chance encounter with this personable young pioneer, a student of history, who studied at the University of Oklahoma and Northeast College at Tahlequah and served as Director of the Tahlequah Museum.

After Zener’s departure from St. Paul on July 10, 2004 to a campsite in Montana, KS, he realized that his one-use camera had been misplaced. The museum received his postcard dated August 12, hoping that he had left it in St. Paul. The day before a visitor to the Gift Shop had found a one-use camera which she wished to purchase. Since we do not sell cameras - it must belong to Zener. Per his instructions the film was developed and mailed to his brother’s in Norman, Oklahoma.

By August 12, Zener’s travels had taken him as far south as Wagoner and Tulsa, OK, Fairfax to Arkansas City, KS, then west to Colorado. His next postcard dated November 12 was from Farmington, New Mexico. His communication postmarked February 8, 2005, Oklahoma City, verified completion of his mission; Shinka was left at a ranch in Texas and that he had spent about three weeks writing of his 172-day, 1400 mile journey. This should be a very interesting document.

By Dan Willson
RECENTLY ACQUIRED ITEMS
The approximately 100-year-old black painted wooden coffin donated by George and Betty Butler is quite different from modern coffins. Its shape is similar to an elongated pentagon with an oval original glass window for viewing the deceased. The lid is not hinged, but is secured with screws. The small size suggests that it was meant for a young person or an adult of considerably smaller stature than commonly seen today. A 100-year-old wheel chair donated by George and Betty Butler is definitely a “wheel” chair. Details of its construction are in great contrast to present day wheel chairs. Comfort seems to have been low in the list of requirements. Today’s wheel chairs make it possible for the user to be self-propelled whereas the user of this chair is dependent on another for mobility. A hand-operated washing machine with a round, wooden tub donated by Gary VanLeeuwen. Prior to 1797, the earliest was a flat rock at a stream’s edge with a second flat rock to beat the dirt out of soiled clothes. In 1797 the washboard was invented. In 1851 James King patented the first washing machine that used a drum. In 1874 William Blackstone improved the washing machine by building a wooden tub with a handle to turn the internal gears. This recently acquired machine seems to be similar. It was not until 1908 that the first electrically powered washing machine, the Thor, was introduced by Alva Fisher.

By Virginia Harden

TAKE A SELF-GUIDED TOUR
The largest recent acquisition catches the eye as one enters our museum. In itself it provides housing for many other additions to our collections. Edward and Jolene Born donated the semi-circular glass display case which graces the west wall. Inside the case is a colorful array of “swizzle sticks” gathered from almost every continent by Michael “Mickey” Walker during his career with General Motors. Duplicate “sticks” are available since Mickey revisited many of the countries. cities. airlines and restaurants to meet with his clients.

Moving around to the front of the case you can see fine crochet work from the last century. We found these pieces in storage—creator/donor unknown. (When donating, please date, sign and give details)

In the next section are examples from the Sheet Music Collection of nearly 700 pieces of popular music as well as books for teaching piano, special recital books, books of specific genres such as fox trot, and some very choice religious or sacred music which the cataloger of these scores remembered from the past century. So will many of you. Each piece of instructional work is cataloged and we have all the works in alphabetical order by title. For this precious collection, we are indebted to Mary Jane Gouvion and Ethel (Volmer) Grillot, 1904-1982.

The rounded corner of the case provides a perfect setting for a brand new collection of replicas of antique cars donated by Dan Willson. There are 22 brightly painted models from the 1912 Ford Model T Depot Hack to the 2004 anniversary cars: Cadillac 100th, Chevy 50th and Ford 75th. Surely anyone would be satisfied with the 1953 Nash. Feast your eyes.


Beyond Graves’ desk there are two sets of shelved glass cases donated by Owen & Regina (Jeanie) O’Brien. The display of cups atop these cases include a gift from Sister Josephine O’Gorman—one bright SOUP CUP for someone with a humongous appetite on a cold day.

Continuing on through the hall into the major exhibit area where the Willys-Knight vehicle and 1876 log cabin is on display in a room filled with other exhibits.

Just south of the Lone Elm schoolhouse is what every country schoolhouse must have—a restored outhouse, donated by Mark VanLeeuwen. The restoration was a special project for St. Paul High School students Nick Beachner, Rachel Paulie, Brad Harris, under the supervision of Mr. Scott Yates.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
Who have contributed time. financial assistance. artifacts and other tasks that keeps the organization moving in its development Space and fear of leaving someone out, list of names are exempted.
HERITAGE
That is what museums and historical societies are all about. How lucky we are that we have inherited some of the goods and records of our ancestors and that we can establish and maintain museums to house them. Most of us as youngsters thought history was something imposed upon us for some un-known reason of their own. Nowadays educators know it is all right to make learning fun. With compatible feelings teachers, students and museum personnel are working together to maintain the early material and collect the contemporary goods that will interpret the life of our times.

Preserving our heritage is something we can do individually. We can collect pictures and make copies. Give one to your local genealogy society, local library and one to the local historical museum. Labeling is important. Put a stick-on label on the back of each. Write the name of each person in the picture using a left to right, top to bottom sequence. If your information comes from a newspaper or other media, give the name of the source and date when it was published. Family history - Each relative can write the history of their own line and then combine them into one volume. They can be shared with museums and libraries. It is important to write down details of our lines as we go or we might neglect to do it. Our descendants will be glad we left records just as we appreciate the ones that were left to us.

By Joan House

GOODBYE SISTER DENISE
It is with regret and heavy heart that we must say goodbye. She has been recalled to duty at the Mother House in Wichita, KS. We are grateful for her expertise and devotion in organizing, indexing and archival preparation of museum records and her detailed preparation of artifacts for displays and particularly her contribution in genealogy research: serving at our Sunday breakfasts, Mission Day lunches. Sister Denise, your kindness, love and friendship will be sorely missed - so will your homemade jellies! We wish you the best.

YEARBOOKS (Annuals)
Genealogy services at Osage Mission-Neosho County Museum have become very useful references, and we continue to strive for more complete coverage. Our shelf of high school yearbooks or annuals is full of gaps. Please help us by checking your books for copies to share with your museum. We would be happy to make an exchange with one of our duplicate copies of THE FRANCIAN or THE INDIAN for the following years that are missing:

GROUP VISITORS
To the museum in 2004:
C & M Tours, Cheney, KS; Young Men's Organization meeting, St. Paul, KS; Thayer High School, Thayer, KS; 1947 St. Paul Class reunion, Prairie Mission Retirement Village, St. Paul; 8th grade class, St. Paul school; Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks meeting, 6th grade Holy Name School, Coffeyville, KS; Tiada Club, Independence, KS


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Virginia Harden, Jolene Born, Dan Willson, Jean Dunavan
Sister Denise Sevart sitting.
MISSION DAYS – 2005
Three drawings will be held May 30th at the Museum.
#1 Drawing - $100.00 Cash
#2 Drawing - $100.00 Cash
#3 Drawing - $100.00 Cash
Each $1.00 donation designated will enter your name into the drawing.
Please return your donation tickets by May 29. (P. O. Box 113, St. Paul, KS 66771)

LUNCH – May 28
BREAKFAST – May 29
COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS – May 30

2004 Mission Days
Donations
Thanks to Farmers Nat'l, Bank for the $100.00 Cash and Ida Fasel for the antique sewing stand.

American Legion Post No. 116
St. Paul, KS provides coffee and doughnuts at the museum each Memorial Day morning.

BRICK PROJECT
Bricks purchased through May, 2004 and April, 2005 will be printed and displayed by Mission Days, 2005. Fill out the form below and mail in for a permanent memorial to your loved ones, friends, or special events. The Class of 1941 will be displayed this year.

Museum Facilities for Rent
The kitchen and dining area are available to rent for meetings, family gatherings, etc.

Family Memorials
The name of your loved one will be printed on a plaque and displayed at the museum for anyone donating memorials to their loved ones.

MUSEUM BREAKFASTS
Continue on the second Sunday of months September through November and January through April. Once again we give THANKS to our faithful volunteers: Sister Denise, Paul & Mona Pitts, Verl & Carol Diskin, Bob & Rosie Harmon, Charles & Alice Schettler, Owen & Jean O'Brien, Ed & Jolene Born, Viola Kennedy, Virginia Harden, Dan Willson, Jean Dunavan, project manager AND Judy Fager and Jane Ann Beachner for food donations.

BUY-A-BRICK FORM
Please print in CAPITAL letters the information as you wish it to appear on the brick.
Fill in the lines from left to right, leaving a blank for spaces between words.
For more than 3 bricks, duplicate this form.

Name of purchaser
Address:

City State Zip Phone: Date:

Example: (Limit lines 1 & 3 to 12 letters)
Brick #1
line 1 ST PAUL
line 2 PUBLIC
line 3 SCHOOL 1941

Brick #2
line 1
line 2
line 3

Brick #3
line 1
line 2
line 3

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $ for bricks at $25 each
Make checks payable to: Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Society
P. O. Box 113, St. Paul, KS 66771
The Beacon
Newsletter published for members of
the Osage Mission-Neosho County
Historical Society
203 Washington-Hwy 47-P O Box 113
St. Paul, KS 66771

Newsletter
Jean Goodsel-Dunavan
Dan Willson

A 501(c) non-profit organization
Federal ID #48-1001071

Historical Society & Museum
Board of Directors and Officers
Museum Director: Dan Willson

Dan Willson President
Jean Goodsel-Dunavan Vice-Pres.
Virginia Harden Secretary
Jolene Born Treasurer
Mona Pitts
Bob & Rosie Harmon
Glen & Marge Neely
Keith Smith
Joan House
Fred Grable
Sister Denise Sevart
Eugene (Corky) Beachner
Osage Representative:
Geoffrey Standing Bear

MUSEUM STATS 2004

Visitors 3,077
Volunteer hours 1,787
US States 27
Canada and Germany

BOARD MEETING
Was held on October 20, 2004.
The Board voted to begin Phase II.
The addition of a machine shelter west of main building. The Board
also voted to charge $50.00 for rent
of the kitchen and dining areas.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
(renewal each January 1)

Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Society Membership
□ Single Membership $10.00 □ Supporting Membership $25.00
□ Family Membership $15.00 □ Business Membership $100.00

Each Supporting membership ($25.00) may receive one historical book:
□ Cookbook □ Beacon of the Plains □ Annals of Osage Mission
□ History of Neosho Co. Vol. 1 □ History of Neosho Co. Vol. 2
□ Osage Mission Sesquicentennial Commemorative
□ I will pick up the book at museum. □ I do not wish a book.
□ Mail the book. I am enclosing an additional $4.00 for mailing.

Name ___________________________________________ Phone __________
Address __________________________________________ Date __________
City ___________________ State ______ Zip __________

the Beacon
Osage Mission-Neosho Co. Historical Society & Museum
203 Washington St. • Hwy 47 • P.O. Box 113
St. Paul, Kansas 66771

POSTAL CUSTOMER