DAN WILLSON

Died October 25, 2008, after a brief illness. He was born Aug. 25, 1923, to Foster and Eva Willson. He enlisted in the Army in 1943 and returned to this area in 1946 to pursue his education at Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, receiving his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology. He taught at Oklahoma Military Academy, Central Oklahoma University and received his doctorate in botany at the University of Oklahoma. He served as head of the biology department at Central Washington State. He retired in 1985 as dean of sciences, mathematics and graduate students and professor of biology from Winona State University, Minnesota. He returned to St. Paul in 1987 and dedicated the remainder of his life to the betterment of the community. He served on the boards of: Prairie Mission Retirement Village during its construction, Mission Estates, St. Paul Planning Commission, Sandpoint, Graves Memorial Public Library (was instrumental in its expansion and remodeling); St. Paul Saddle Club, donating the land as the Eva, Foster Willson Park, St. Paul School Scholarship Committee and the Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Society. Dan was first an educator, teacher and communicator and dedicated his life in supporting others to improve their lives.

MUSEUM DIRECTOR, CURATOR and VOLUNTEER

Dan opened the doors to visitors 6 days a week and by appointment. He was very knowledgeable on local history. He prepared artifacts for display, researched history, conducted tours, answered the mail, set up for special events and a myriad of other things. He enjoyed flowers and spent hours planting and manicuring the museum flower beds and grounds. He was a quiet humble man and a friend to all who were associated with him. He is greatly missed. A Memoriam is on display at the museum.

VIRGINIA HARDEN

Museum Secretary and Volunteer five mornings a week left us in November due to failing health. She assisted with filing obituaries, logging artifacts and was cashier at monthly breakfasts. She is now residing at Guest Home Estates in Pittsburg, Kansas. Thank you, Virginia, and we wish you well.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Thankfully, Mary Lou Boone, C.D. LaForge and Felix Diskin stepped forward in our time of need. The museum remains open 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday, 9:00am to 2:00pm, and by appointment. Telephone 620-449-2320. After hours, call 620-449-2590 or 620-449-2246.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Who have contributed, financial assistance, artifacts and other tasks that keep the organization moving forward.

Museum Website: Visit us at www.osagemission.org
MUSEUM PRESENTATION

Osage Tribal Customs and Culture was presented by Janet Storck, Chanute, KS, who is descended from the Osage Tribe. She related stories of her heritage using authentic costumes and music. She talked on the history of several items she had on exhibit including handcrafted Indian articles, baskets, dream catchers, mandellas, dolls and bowls.

GROUPS and RENTALS

Kansas Wildlife and Parks meeting; St. Paul Public School reunion; Mattox baby shower, Brazil family reunion; 2 buses of pre-schoolers, Altamont, KS; Red Hat Ladies Club, Chanute, KS; Ft. Scott Community College retirees bus tour; Senior Class; 3rd and 5th Grades, St. Paul, KS;

St. Paul Third Graders’ Wax Museum proceeds were donated to the Museum. Twila Wagner asked each of her students to research a person from this area. They dressed as the character and used props. Students would remain like statues in a wax museum until a coin was dropped in their can. The students would then begin portraying their chosen character’s life.

NEW MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Two buggy seats, wagon wheel wrench, grain scoop, donated by Lyle Casey; clippings collection, donated by Charlene Cooney; Early 1920’s suitcase, donated by Betty Coomes; Teddy bear, doll, sewing machine & sewing cards, zinc lidded canning jar, and a 1920’s iron candy box, donated by Virginia Harden; western Indian blanket loom, from Mark Smith; meat grinder, store coffee grinder, mule skinner’s saddle, harness collar, milk strainer, pitcher pump, and oil pump, donated by Joe and Ruth Ann Schoenofer; 1940’s pink vintage ladies hat, from Charlene Kirkpatrick; G.E. Balfay Hardware Store Sign, early Neosho County district maps and two classroom books from the Lone Elm School days, donated by Judy Fager; 1947 license plate, from Sister Denise Sevart; Store linoleum roll holder, donated by Mary J. Whelan; National Cash Register, from Betty Goodsel-Bradshaw; High School Annuals, donated by Margaret Diskin; Gold wash headed cane, from Marge Neely; 1847 one cent coin, donated by Mark & Loretta VanLeeuwen; Blacksmith Forge from the Big Island, donated by Jim Chappel and Leon Hines and restored by C. D. LaForge; License Plate collection donated by William (Bill) Volz, son of Herman Volz, a longtime St. Paul resident. The state issued the first license plate in 1913. Prior to that, only cities issued plates. 1912-1920 license plates were identified by color and the placement of KAN on the plate. Starting in 1921, the year was printed on each plate. The Museum’s collection begins with 1913. They are displayed in the new blacksmith shop.

Mid 1930’s Simplex Motorcycle
The first American Simplex Motorcycles began production in 1935 in Baton Rouge, LA. Only 50 motorcycles were produced the first year. (From the archives: only two are known to exist. One of them resides in the Smithsonian Museum Collection. The other is privately owned.) This motorcycle was purchased by Art (A. J.) Goodsel in the mid 1970’s for pleasure riding. Later restored and donated to the Museum.
MUSEUM-MISSION DAYS – 2009

BRISKET LUNCH – Saturday, May 23
BREAKFAST – Sunday, May 24
COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS – May 25

Two drawings will be held May 25th at the museum during coffee & doughnuts.
#1 Drawing - $100.00 Cash
  donated by Farmers Nat’l. Bank
#2 Drawing - $100.00 Cash
  donated by Exchange State Bank
Each $1.00 donation designated will enter your name into the drawing. Please return your donation tickets by May 20.

American Legion Post No. 116,
St. Paul, KS, provides coffee and doughnuts at the museum on Memorial Day morning. Viola Kennedy, Gert Gallo & Jean Dunavan have donated their services to this project for over 30 years.

2008 Mission Days Museum Winners
$100.00 – Farmers Nat’l. Bank
  Won by: Jim O’Toole, Girard, KS
$100.00 – Exchange State Bank
  Won by: Regina Harmison, Erie, KS

Mission Days Volunteers
Thank you, Dan Willson, Jean Dunavan, Jolene and Ed Born, Virginia Harden, Twila Wagner and Regan Albertini, Marge Neely and D & M Catering for making Mission Days at the museum a success. Jolene and Ed Born also spend many hours on mowing, new exhibits and other tasks.

FAMILY MEMORIALS
Names are printed on a memorial plaque and hung in the museum for a family who remembers the museum in their charitable contributions or memorials to their loved ones.

MUSEUM FACILITY FOR RENT
The kitchen and lobby are available to rent for meetings, family events and organizations.

MUSEUM BREAKFASTS
Continue to be held on the second Sunday of months September through May, except December, June, July, and August. Once again we say thanks to our faithful volunteers: Owen & Jean O'Brien, Bob & Rosie Harmon, Charles & Alice Schettler, Verl & Carol Diskin, Ed & Jolene Born, Jay & Mauricia O'Brien, Judy Fager, Jane Anne Beachner, Devonna and Deia Davidson, Virginia Harden, Dan Willson, and Jean Dunavan, coordinator.

THE MUSEUM is the designated voting location for Mission Township

VISIT OUR GENEALOGY INFORMATION CENTER
W. W. Graves’ St. Paul Journals 1895 - 1961 have been transferred onto microfilm and are a great source of Neosho County history.

ST. PAUL HIGH ANNUALS

BRICK PROJECT
Is a permanent memorial to your loved ones, your family or a special event. Fill out the form enclosed and mail to us. More bricks are needed to complete the present sidewalk.

MUSEUM BREAKFASTS, BRICK PROJECT and MEMBERSHIPS help defray the costs of utilities, postage, newsletters and museum upkeep. Thanks for your support.

2009 MISSION DAYS EVENT
Sunday, May 24, Bishop Michael O. Jackels of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita will offer a special mass at St. Francis Church to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the completion of the current church building. The historic stone church is across Highway 47 from the Osage Mission-Neosho County Museum.

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Is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Frances Casey had a dream to preserve and exhibit Neosho County’s history. She dedicated years, laying its foundation, raising funds, acquiring land, erecting the building, setting forth its organization and procedures that continue today. Her vision resulted in a great asset to the community, county and visitors from around the world.
ST. PAUL COMMUNITY 2008-09
St. Paul City was awarded a $100,000.00 grant for city park improvements. St. Paul Grocery opened on Hwy 47 in June, owned by Joe and Sue Renfro. Next door, the St. Paul Tire & Lube and Wash Tub Laundromat moved into their new building at Hwy 47 and 2nd Street, owned by Robert and Jeannie Kroenke; St. Paul students and staff are anticipating moving into the new high school and gymnasium by the end of the school year. St. Francis church steeple restoration was completed. It was destroyed in the 2005 tornado. Three new homes, one at Lafayette and 5th Street, one on North Main Street and one on Trego Rd. Frank O’Bryan’s new Tire and Wheel Co. opened at the corner of Hwy 47 and Front Street. Brian’s Auto Repair moved into their new building on Lafayette Street, owned by Brian McKinzie; Ray Riggs’ large building at corner of Lafayette and 6th Street will park semi-trucks. Perry and Misty O’Brien sold The Dugout on Central Street. It is now Findley’s Brick Oven Pub. O’Brien’s Supper Club owned by Melinda and Perry O’Brien and adjoining business, Bill’s Saw Shop, owned for 30 years by Bill and Betty Bradshaw, were sold to Roy Carter. Many will remember this building as the 57 Diner and Phillips 66 Station built by Art & Nellie Goodsel at Main and Hwy 57 (Hwy 47) and has been an eating establishment for over 55 years.

AREA DEATHS, 2008-09
Lewis Bradshaw, Richard Clark, Clara Forst, Mary Lou Crager, “Mac” Boone, Jody Beachner, Darlene Alloway, Sara Grosdidier, Wildia Threlfall, Frank Moore, Gertrude Merewether, Mary Agnes Thompson, Anna Trammell, Dan Willson, St. Paul; David King, Peggie Nicholas, Charles Burns, Dick Greer, Agnes Burns, Jack Carson, Joshua Daniels, Brenda Davidson, Virgil Goff, Gordan Golfry, Mary Harding, Dinah Hill, Helen Hines, Laurie A. Williams, Roberta Yarnell, Maudie Wheeles, Faye Ward, Randy McKinnis, Amy Madl, Bernice Meinke, E. Rex Naanes, Charlotte Nesbitt, Carmel O’Malley, Ella Olson, Marie Pilot, Ruth Raney, Betty Scoones, Howard Smith, Stan Vallier, Eric; Chuck Varsolona, Melvin VanCleave, Marie Trim, Freda Allman, John Brungardt, Galesburg; Owen Duling, Walnut, and Mike Giefer, Parsons. If you know of anyone that has moved from this area, send us an obituary.

A “BIT” OF HISTORY
Recalled by James (Jim) Carter
The year was 1911. First National Bank of Thayer, Kansas, failed. St. Paul, Kansas, had two banks. W. W. O’Byran was a director of Mission State Bank located on the north side of Central two doors down from Main Street. A. J. Shannon was a large stockholder and cashier at St. Paul State Bank at the northwest corner of Central and 5th Street. At the time there were no FDIC regulations. There was a run on the St. Paul Bank by patrons withdrawing their accounts. A. J. Shannon blamed W. W. O’Byran for his bank’s troubles. He went across the street to the barbershop. Inside were owner, Chad Ewing, W. W. O’Byran, Jim’s dad, Dell Carter, and other patrons. The banker pulled a gun on W. W. O’Byran. As he pulled the trigger, Chad Ewing hit his arm and the shot went awry. The sheriff asked Dell Carter to testify; the others wouldn’t talk about it. Out of fear he jumped a train to Joplin, MO. After some time, he returned to St. Paul. When the sheriff spotted him, he hopped the train and jumped off near South Mound, KS. He established a residence on “The Big Island” south of St. Paul and began a family. He worked for the railroad as foreman of crews laying the dirt foundation for tracks in the 4-States area. A. J. Shannon was convicted of attempted murder in District Court, Erie, Kansas in February 1912.


LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER
Memory was something you lost with age;
An application was for employment;
A program was a TV show;
A cursor used proficiency;
A keyboard was a piano;
A web was a spider’s home;
A virus was the flu;
A CD was a bank account;
A hard drive was a long trip on the road;
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.

Museum Website: Visit us at www.osagemission.org
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 on the Plains  ☐ Osage Mission Sesquicentennial
☐ History of Neosho Co. Vol. 1  ☐ History of Neosho Co. Vol. 2

☐ 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__________

Museum Stats
Visitors 1,569
U.S. States 24
Outside U.S. China and Japan
Volunteer Hours 2,798

Annual Memberships
Are renewable each January.
They help defray costs of
postage, the newsletter, utilities
and other museum upkeep

BUY-A-BRICK-FORM

Please print in Capital letters the information as you wish it to appear on each brick.
Leave 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 #2
Line 1  ____________________________________________________________________________
line 2  ____________________________________________________________________________
line 3  ____________________________________________________________________________

Brick #1

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER