

Pratt County Historical Society

October 2008 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

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40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION !!!

The Pratt County Historical Society will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its incorporation on Sunday, November 9th from 1 to 5 in the afternoon at the museum. There will be people stationed throughout the museum at many of the exhibits, explaining the history of some of the items and how they were used. They will also be answering any questions from visitors.

There will be items given out at some of the exhibits, such as pencils at the schoolroom, fresh baked cookies and ice cream sundaes at the soda fountain.

The Susan H. Hess Room will showcase life in Pratt County and the United States in 1968. Miss Kansas, Debra Dene Barnes, became Miss America. J. Rufus Gray's book *Pioneer Saints and Sinners* was published. Pratt Junior College was brand new. Avocado green, harvest gold and orange were the "in" colors. And, do you remember Bike's Burger Bar? Ah, the "Good Old Days" of 1968 !

So, plan to attend the anniversary festivities the afternoon of Sunday, November 9th. It will all make for an enjoyable afternoon of fun at the museum. Come visit with old friends and possibly make new ones.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !!! ☺

NEW ADDITION TO GALLERY ONE

The arrowhead collection of Clarence Beck has now made its way back home. He was an avid collector back in the 1930's. He hunted at the Johnson site, west of Pratt and also in Cimarron County, Oklahoma. A 1938 graduate of Pratt High School and a member of the first graduating class of Pratt Junior College in 1940, Clarence now resides in Rye, New Hampshire. The museum is proud to be the recipient of his collection. It is being displayed in Gallery One, with other Indian artifacts of the area.

SOCIETY PARTICIPATES AT FAIRS

The Historical Society had a booth at the Pratt County Fair, again, the past July. Fairgoers enjoyed looking at all the old photographs of the towns of Pratt County. As a result of being at the fair, we received eight new memberships!

In September, Marvin and Eunice Proctor, Marsha Brown, Marjorie Buck and Dwight Adams represented the Society at the South Central Kansas Tourism Region booth at the Kansas State Fair. Members of the SCKTR were asked to man the booth throughout the fair. Each organization could promote their tourism site while they were there. They handed out lots of brochures and invited everyone to visit the museum.

NEW HOSTS AT THE MUSEUM

We would like to welcome our new hosts to the museum. Elizabeth Bible, Lee Hamm and Milt and Madeline Martin. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be a host, contact Liz Henry at 672-3237 or anyone in the museum office. What a great way to help serve your

community, by being a host for a couple hours a day at the museum. Besides that, you might learn something about Pratt County that you didn't know before!

LOTS OF HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM

The biggest news is, through the generous donations from members of the Society and a surprise donation from the Portia Terry Lyman estate, we were able to purchase a NEW microfilm reader-printer! We received a phone call from Aaron Towns, Portia's grandson. He said they were settling up Portia's estate and she had stipulated in her will that a portion of her estate go to the museum. He asked if we were working on a project that needed extra funding. Marsha told him of the reader-printer. Years ago, Portia had given the museum microfilm of all the Sawyer newspapers. Her parents, Byron and Lora Blair were the publishers of the "Sawyer News" from 1938 until its last issue in 1970. Aaron said that he was sure that his grandmother would be pleased to know that the money from her estate would be used to purchase a reader-printer. A few days later, a very generous check came in the mail. Because of that check, the society was able to purchase a NEW microfilm reader-printer! Thank you so much, Portia!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Marsha said that she would buy the film of the Pratt County Democrat (a Saratoga newspaper) from the Kansas State Historical Society. She has a list of films of all the newspapers they have for duplication. Anyone interested in sponsoring a roll of microfilm as a donation to the museum, may contact Marsha for further information.

The second biggest bit of news (or maybe THE biggest for others than the writer of this newsletter, who is obviously excited about the reader-printer) is that with the money from a couple of memorials, we were able to replace the front window. It sure brightens up the lobby, once again! The glass is energy efficient, tinted and double-paned. It lets one enjoy the window, but without letting the cold of the winter or the heat of the summer, effect the main lobby area. It even made the front page of the Pratt Tribune! A big "Thank You!" goes out to the guys at Pratt Glass, Lance Cosby of Bob Epp Construction for the sandblasting and Rick Barker of J.A. Knight & Sons for the painting—along with Thad Henry and Marvin Proctor for their "finish up" work. The window looks great! Stop by and see it from the inside and out!

In other news, after getting the ceiling replaced in the chapel, it was decided that the floors needed to be polished. Abe Nafsia was hired to do the job—and what a great job he did! Afterward, he noticed that the floor in Gallery One needed to be polished, too. He made us a "packaged deal" we couldn't turn down. The floors look like brand new!

We have new lighting in the East Gallery, where the adobe brick house is located, along with the broom machine and some farm machinery. It's always been

dark back there, so thanks guys for installing the new lights!

The Pratt Travel & Tourism Committee funded the new museum sign located at the corner of Highway 54 and South Ninnescah. The Historical Society Board of Directors is very appreciative of their assistance. The new sign replaces the old one posted on the pole with the laundromat sign. Due to fading, the brown tourist attraction signs at the same intersection have been redone by the city of Pratt. Thanks to everyone!

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Pratt, KS 67124**

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NEW WEB SITE FOR THE MUSEUM

The Pratt County Historical Society is very pleased and proud to announce their new web site! It's still in the early stages, with much more to add, but check it out at "prattcountymuseum.org". Milt Martin has been working hard on putting it together. He has many great ideas on things to add in the near future. He and Marsha are working on making it one of the best museum web sites around.

Milt is also the one who created the website for the Pratt Army Air Field. If you are interested in the past, the present, and the future of the Pratt air base, log on to "prattarmyairfield.com" and read all about it. There are personal histories by men who were stationed there during World War II and also many videos about the B-29 Bombers, which are interesting to watch.

40th ANNIVERSARY TIDBIT NEWS

Since the incorporation of the Society in 1968, there are three charter members who have maintained their membership: Carter Barker, Gary Curtis and LouJean Rosenbaum. Gary Curtis was the first person to become a lifetime member of the Society.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
NOVEMBER THE 9th
1 TO 5 AT THE MUSEUM**

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

For those of you who pay your dues annually, you may want to pay your 2009 dues early this year. As of January 1, 2009, the annual dues will increase from \$ 10 to \$ 15 and the Lifetime membership will go from \$ 75 to \$ 100.

MEMORIALS

A memorial for a loved one can be designated for an ongoing project or assist with the upkeep of the museum.

This past year has proven what "good things" can be done with the money received through memorials.

ATTENDANCE AT THE MUSEUM

From January through September of this year 1, 643 visitors have toured the museum:

Pratt County	510
Kansas	274
United States	310
International	3
Groups	546

The groups consisted of: school classes, Pilot Club, Pratt Travel & Tourism Committee, Leadership 2000+, Arrowhead West, Parkwood residents, and the South Central Community Foundation.

The "crew" at the State Fair

From left to right:

Marsha Brown
Marvin Proctor
Eunice Proctor
Marjorie Buck
Dwight Adams