



# BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Memorial Auditorium – Ag Museum & Windmill Lane

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611 Utah Street --- Hiawatha, KS 66434

## “ENRICHING OUR FUTURE THROUGH OUR PAST”

December 19, 2018  
Issue No. 4 for 2018

Memberships: Individual \$15.00; Family \$30.00  
Business \$30.00; Life Membership \$200 per person

### MUSEUM HOURS

Memorial Auditorium Museum, located at 611 Utah Street and the Ag Museum, 301 East Iowa closed October 31, for the season. The Museums will OPEN May 1, 2019. Curator Lynn Allen is on duty at the auditorium museum Tuesday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. If you have something to bring to the museum or have visitors and wish to tour either museum please call about setting a time to visit. If it is cold remember the Ag Museum buildings are not heated.

### DIRECTOR'S CORNER

There's been a lot of activity at the memorial auditorium over the past few months. Some of you may have stopped by and observed some of the activities as they have occurred. Thanks so much for stopping by.

In September Hiawatha STUCCO club donated 16 students to the museums for a day of community service and the Memorial Auditorium and the AG Museum were able to complete many activities with this generous service.

The auditorium has had the bat removal process performed successfully, a tremendous thank you to Ed Shearer at Critter Control for his invaluable knowledge and service.

Almost daily the museums have little maintenance duties that are necessary to ensure the museums are in tip top shape! One of these duties includes that one of the auditorium blinds was not working properly but thanks to Wes Duesing the blind was taken down and delivered to Drapery Decor. Jere Bruning stopped by and kindly offered to go get the blind when the new one came in. Wes Duesing and Larry Day worked hard to make sure that the blind was back up and operational before the fall play production, “David & Lisa.”

For those who missed this production it was a sensational production that brings light to developmental disabilities and mental illness if you have the opportunity to see this production I recommend that you do! It will be well worth it! At the museum seasonal decorations are being put up for people to view and enjoy!

Grand Prairie 2018 had an extremely successful season! I want to extend an enormous thank you to Eric Oldham for coming out on day one to offer his knowledge and expertise. Grand Prairie One Room School House now includes participants from Horton Elementary school and we are so excited they are with us! Grand Prairie 2019 is to include other surrounding area elementary schools so that we might make the Grand Prairie school house an even bigger program. As always our program could not have the

success that it does each year without the generous donation from our schoolmarm, Mrs. Mary Finley. Grand Prairie had two additional schoolmarms this year and we would like to recognize and thank them, Sister Lunts and Sister Williams. These two ladies are missionaries with Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints.

During the passing of the seasons we have participated in a number of exciting activities. One such event was the annual Heritage Days. This event was a wonderful success and included first time participation from G & C Petting Zoo and Snapp's Pony Rides. Brown County Historical Society is excited that these events were able to be a part of Heritage Days 2018! The museums have been decorated for holidays as they have occurred, candy distribution to trick or treaters and even were invited to participate in Miss Mary's Halloween Contest. This year has been full of joyous events and we hope 2019 finds our season busier than ever. As always, I hope your holidays are filled with sparkle. My Best, *Lynn Marie Allen*

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Memorial Auditorium is looking very festive with Christmas sparkling everywhere. Lynn Marie Allen, curator, has done a wonderful job decorating the auditorium museum, Carwell Building and the Ag Museum inside and out. The outside of the caboose at the Ag Museum has lighted wreaths on it. The bushes in front of the Log Cabin office have lights on them. She is also decorating at the Frances Plamann History Center is also referred as Town Clock building and is now the home of City Hall.

HAATS has been busy working on their production of Christmas Music held Saturday evening, December 15, in the Memorial

Auditorium Museum.

December 15 was also the date for the tour of homes sponsored by Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce. This is the first year for using the historical society trolley in taking visitors to the homes. Gene Swearingen and Larry Day volunteered to take turns driving the tractor pulling the trolley.

It was a beautiful day. There was a large amount of interest in this event and there was a good attendance.

## MEMORIALS

The giving of flowers (monetary gifts) to the historical society in memory of a person or in celebration of a wedding anniversary, birthday or some other method of honoring someone is called living flowers and people like this method of honoring someone. These gifts help with projects at the museums.

Since the last newsletter the following persons have been remembered

### EDITH SHEAR

Memorials for Edie came from Jere & Patty Bruning; Ferol and Joan Baskett; Randy & Mary Atlakson; Kevin Dutton; Joe & Shirley Gormley; Marjorie Idol; Donald & Peggy Jenkins; Morris & Sharon Jenkins; Patricia Larson; Lonnie D and Sharese Moser; Warner & Charlene Pape; Marianne and Mike Schmitt; Ruth Wolfe; miscellaneous cash donations.

### DALE CAMPBELL

Memorials for Dale are from Joe & Shirley Gormley; John & Connie Lehman; Paul & Janet Tyler.

## **DON MEYERS:**

By: Joe and Shirley Gormley

## **DIANA ETHERIDGE:**

A memorial for Diana (Ricklefs)

Etheridge was received from her sister, Chris Davignon. Chris writes a little about her sister. She is a granddaughter of Herman and Cecie Ricklefs. She is also related to the Brunings,

The Memorials totaled \$575.00. Thank you everyone for thinking of the Historical Society with your memorial donations. These donations help with the expenses and upkeep of the museums.

## **ACQUISITIONS**

I need to make a correction from September Newsletter acquisition. I was given incorrect information so hope to correct it in this addition.

Dorothy Wright donated articles of many plays, sports etc of Hiawatha schools (all from The World;) several receipts donated include from James Poultry Co., March 29, 1941; Middlebrook's Golden Rule Store, 1-19-1951; Brown County Hatchery mirror, teal border and bird on the front; several other articles from The Hiawatha World written by Dolores Hohnbaum. These articles had belonged to her aunt, Ruby Parks and Ruby's mother. Thank you Bonnie for finding the correct information.

## **HISTORY OF RESERVE**

This is the last installment of the history of Reserve by Martha Stewart.

Sam & Edna Stewart family have donated articles and photos of the

Stewart - Hart families; Reserve City Photos; 1948 Brown County Atlas; Martha Stewart notes' 1854-1924 land sales; black photo album, 2 clippings, Samuel B Stewart death; A. N. Ruley's History of Brown County. A number of family Stewart & Hart photos, some identified and some not identified; large picture of Hart family; Grandma Stewart.)

The following article are notes written by Martha Stewart.

1890 on account of so many in Reserve not having a way to attend the Christian Church on Kentucky Ridge, it was torn down and rebuilt in Reserve.

1874: F. C. Willey an family arrived at Reserve here from the east and settled on the present Willey farm, the father and three sons all being married, the father organized a band, which met in the kitchen for practice.

1891: George Willey organized the first uniformed band, which went all over this part of the country to play.

1892: R. M. Stewart of Padonia built the south elevator, the first having been built by John W. Clark, Jr., and moved his family here and later built an implement store and the firm of R. M. Stewart and sons Grain, Coal and Implements was formed.

1894: The Methodist Church was built.

1896: The little town of Reserve was growing and prosperous when May 17 on Sunday evening a tornado almost demolished the place, leaving few houses intact, killing three and injuring many, but people took heart again and the town was soon rebuilt. The churches were both rebuilt, the Christian Church was dedicated in December of same year and the M.E. church later.

1898: The bank was built and organized with J. M. Hillyer the first president and Horace C. Rubert of Hiawatha, the cashier. In 1934 when S. B. Stewart was president and Chester Jones, was cashier the bank was merged with the Morrill & Janes Bank of Hiawatha and moved there.

1906: Modern Woodman Lodge had been organized and the Modern Woodman Hall was built. The Royal Neighbors were organized later.

1901: In Sept. The Stewart elevator burned to the ground full of grain and the insurance had run out three days before. The grain burned for days. Charley Reitz was overcome fighting the fire and almost lost his life. This elevator was rebuilt the same year and remained in the Stewart name until (no year listed) when it was sold to J. M. Gilmore and Robert Cornelison,

In the early years Reserve had a good butcher shop with such as Charley and C. Reitz, Lee Green, -- Charley and Roy Chesnut in charge. In 1910 the Chesnut Brothers were the

butchers and ran two meat wagons and peddled meat from White Cloud to Morrill, besides running the livery barn.

1910: The old frame school building was burned to the ground and by 1912 the new brick building was ready for occupancy. J. W. Clark gave much of his time to the building of this school, as he was much concerned in all matters concerning education as he himself was educated in Yale and farming never interested him.

1913: April 8 Reserve was incorporated into 3<sup>rd</sup> class city.

1913: April 21 the first election was held with S. B. Stewart elected mayor and D. C. Evans, clerk.

1913; Fire started in the newspaper office and almost all of Main Street was wiped out, two stores, restaurant, butcher shop, printing office and Reitz Harness Shop. The stores were replaced by two fine brick store buildings and Charley Reitz erected a brick harness shop. Along about this time John Kinzie built a brick building at a cost of \$42,000 and he moved his furniture from the old Hassig store.

1916: October 4: Bonds for the sum of \$7,000 were issued by the city of Reserve for the purpose of paying cost of the construction of a transmission line and electric lighting

system.

1924 August 19: Bonds to the amount of \$14,500 were issued for the purchasing and constructing and extending water works for the purpose of supplying the city and its inhabitants with water.

1925: Another bad fire occurred and burnt the two store buildings. November 18 Reserve Building Association was formed and shares sold and the stores were rebuilt. 1948 these stores passed into the ownership of Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Hall.

1937, April 5: S. B. Stewart resigned his mayorship and John W. Miner was elected to that office, who served until 1945, when on account of ill health, J. M. Gilmore finished out his term. Louis Pekarek was next elected mayor, but before his time expired he accepted work in Nebraska City and Herschel Jameson took over. In April of 1948 Earl Yarnell took over with LaVerne Yarnell, City Clerk and they are serving the city at present.

This is only some of the high lights in the history of our city, many deserve mention, who have served well and long, but the history on main street has changed in 70 years, the old hitch racks are gone and a horse is seldom seen on the street. The Indians in their colorful blankets and bright garbs, who made

Reserve their trading center in the early days, are gone.

Expensive cars now line the streets and trans ports and trucks hauling stock to the markets stop at the Port of Entry. A great many of the supplies for the stores are brought in by truck and yellow school busses are darting here and there bringing school children from every direction. Four passenger buses north and four south pass through every 24 hours. The old Hassig store has been owned by a Cornelison until 1948 when Rob Cornelison sold it to the late Raleigh Chesnut and he tore it down, thus the name of Cornelison passed from main street after nearly 70 years.

The store buildings, now the property of Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Hall, house a recreation parlor and an up to date store by Richard Tubach. The Reitz Harness Shop was purchased by Irwin Schmidt after Mr. Reitz's death December 12, 1949 and Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Barber conducted a Refused Freight store there. The old drug store is Ruth's Café owned by Mrs. Cotton.

The bank bldg is now the City Hall and the Post Office has been moved over to the former Nance Store. Uncle Amos Thompson's Cabinet Shop has been moved to

Madison, KS. The need for a Blacksmith shop has passed and it has been torn down. The old Livery Stables is now owned by Mrs. Mabel Chesnut and has been made into apts. The Stewart Implement bldg was torn down many years ago and the Stewart office, which served as a post office when G. N. Popplewill was postmaster, has been sold to Raymond Goodwin for an Electrical & Plumbing Shop. Marion Campbell operates a gun shop in the former J. F. Kinzie Hardware & Furniture Store, now owned by Martha Stewart. The Lumber yard has long been owned by Harpsters of Hiawatha. Forty years G. A. Hall has been agent for the M.O.P., & his capable wife supplies for him when he is called elsewhere. A fine consolidated Rural High School has been completed this year, and will bless all who enters her doors. "Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." The two churches stand guard at each end of the little city and each Sunday morning the bells peal out an invitation, calling all to the houses of worship.-(M.S.= Martha Stewart.)

## **2-GUN MAN HITS SELF**

December 7, 1934: Ben Spaulding believes now that the 2-gun men of fiction may be all right in fiction, but the practice of carrying

2 guns doesn't work out well in everyday life. Ben ought to know—he was a 2-gun man long enuf to learn his lesson. Out hunting Thanksgiving afternoon with his father, George Spaulding, in Stony Point neighborhood, Ben saw a rabbit, within range of a shotgun. Ben was also armed with a revolver but, rather than drop it in the snow, he fired the shot gun while holding the revolver in one hand. In some manner the recoil of the shotgun touched off the revolver which sent a bullet coursing down Ben's left hand into his little finger. The worst of it, as Ben sees it, is that the rabbit wasn't hit. In fact, Ben thinks the rabbit halted momentarily, perhaps to relieve himself of a sneer, before he galloped off.—Brown County World, 1934.

## **YOUNG MAN CRUSHED**

Carl Peck, 22, was almost instantly killed when a jack he was using to prop up a motor car beneath which he was working at his farm near Morrill slipped out of place, allowing the car to fall on him crushing his chest-head.

Earlier in the day Peck came to Hiawatha for a drive shaft for his car. He was installing the shaft, was on his back beneath the jacked-up car, when the machine fell on him, crushing his chest badly in the region of the heart, inflicting a bruise on his head.—The Brown County World, December 7, 1934.

## **LIVESTOCK KILLED IN NIGHT FIRE**

Fire discovered took heavy toll at the farm of Carl Fridell, 5 miles east, 2 ½ miles north of Hiawatha. Fridell, who owns his own place says he had insurance on a barn which

burned but had no insurance on the contents. The contents were of more value than the barn, a 52x50 structure built 4 years ago.

At midnight some neighbors who drove by the place saw no evidence of fire but 15 minutes later the Fridell's looked out to see the barn ablaze, the fire having broken out with such headway that it was impossible to stop it.

There were 9 milk cows, 3 calves in the barn. All burned to death. Three horses burned in the barn, while another was rescued but was found so badly burned it was later killed.

Thirty tons of hay burned, as did 700 bushels of corn, oats, wheat. All of Fridell's harness was burned but a wagon, several other implements, were pulled to a safe place.

A shed on the north of the barn housed some implements but a northerly wind blew the fire in an other direction.

Firemen were not available but a number of neighbors-friends, in spite of the late hour, snowy roads, turned out to assist Fridell as best they could. More information on Fridell fire: Carl Fridell, farmer living northeast of Hiawatha, is seriously ill, as a result of a fire at his farm. Fridell ran out barefoot, causing him to contract a cold which has threatened to cause pneumonia. --December 7, 1934 The Brown County World.

## **PAINFULLY INJURED**

A warning that the safety of children must be guarded with particular care during the season when playing with sleds is possible was given when George "Sonny" Moore, 13-year-old son of Mr. And Mrs. L. A. Moore, was painfully injured in a car-sled accident.

His father told the boy not to hook his sled behind cars, but, like dozens of other boys, "Sonny" disobeyed. He was being towed by a car along Oregon street in front the Golden Rule

store, when a Falls City car came up behind him.

The driver of the Falls City car applied his brakes when he saw the boy on the sled, but could not bring his machine to a halt on the slippery street.

"Sonny" was painfully bruised on the back, the right leg, the head. It was first thought it would be necessary to take him to a hospital but youth was in his favor, so he began recovering quickly.

In a number of ways "Sonny" has been unfortunate. A dog bit him. He fell into Lake Hiawatha, nearly drowning before he was rescued.--December 14, 1934 The Brown County World.

## **WAITS AT LOCKUP**

A search for Carl "Red" Dickinson, 19, ended when Sheriff Harold Schmitt found Dickinson in a sitting room in the residence part of the Brown county jail, placidly reading The World while waiting to be arrested.

"I heard you wanted me, so I thot I'd just come on down to the jail without causing you any more trouble," Dickinson explained. Officers hunted for Dickinson in Horton, Falls City, other communities. Dickinson was suspected of stealing a car.

Dickinson told Lloyd S. Miller, county attorney he didn't steal the car--he just borrowed it. He wanted to go to White Cloud, so he started there, intending to bring the car back, but the machine got into a ditch 8 miles east, 3 miles north of Hiawatha. Dickinson said he remained all night with the car, being pulled out by a milk truck. Then he brot the car back.

In justice court before F. O. Kroh, Dickinson was sentenced to 6 months. in the Brown County jail. Dickinson was sentenced under a statue from one day to one year in jail the so called "joy-riding" statue which makes a distinction between those who steal cars and those who borrow them for pleasure.--The Brown County World December 1934.

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Hiawatha, Kansas 66434

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Rudolph and Mr. Snowman on stage of Memorial Auditorium