

Harvey House Notes

Florence Historical Society



March 2008

2008

Historical Society Officers:

- ❖ President-Judy Mills
- ❖ Vice President-Sarah Cope
- ❖ Secretary-Marjorie Jackson
- ❖ Treasurer-Twilah Williams

Board of Directors:

Sarah Cope
Cathy DeForest
Mary Jane Grimmatt
Marjorie Jackson
Judy Mills
Edna Mae Robinson
Neva Robinson
Vickie Turner
Harvey Wells
Twilah Williams

Items for publication in the
newsletter can be sent to:

Mary Jane Grimmatt
414 W. 8th Street
Florence, KS 66851

or emailed:
mjg1@kans.com

Preserving the Past for the Future

CALL FOR HELP

If I sound like a broken record, please forgive me. Our need for new and/or active members is becoming more critical with each passing month. There is a definite need to preserve the history of Florence, and the Fred Harvey beginnings or it will be lost forever. Please help us in the preservation of the work started by those years ago. It would be a shame to think that this generation just dropped the ball. What will we tell our children and the children of tomorrow? Just imagine what a country this would be if everyone, everywhere was complacent about the preservation of history? We need your help. Please call a member to see how you can help. Thank you.

Judy Mills, President

LETTERS FROM YOU!!!

*The following is a letter we received from former resident,
Edith White:*

Dear Neva,

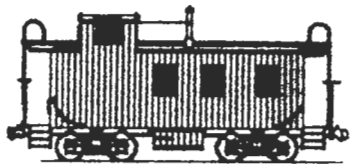
I hope you remember me as its been a few years since I have been in Florence, the town has quite a few changes. I still think about the years I spent in the Town and Country Café and all the people who worked for me, they were good years.

Enclosed is a check, would you send me a copy of the book, "Century of Pride"? The balance is for the "Harvey House". You all are doing so much restoring it. It looks great from the pictures I've seen.

Thank you very much.

An old friend,
Edith White
7511 Amigo Way
Redding, California 96002

Thank you Edith for remembering us with your generous
donation!



WAY CAR UPDATE

Well, it looks like spring is finally on its way and for all of us at the Harvey House it can't come soon enough. With spring brings warm weather and a new excitement about doing those things at the Harvey House that got put on hold due to Old Man Winter. Our big project for this spring is the renovation of the way car. Last fall we were able to get it cleaned out and now we are ready to begin the renovating. We will be tearing off the old paneling and boards to get it ready to be sandblasted. We would love some help with this project, as we are small in numbers at the Harvey House. If you would be interested in helping on a weekend or evening to renovate the way car, please give Sarah a call at 620-878-4294. We would appreciate any help we can get and you would have the satisfaction of knowing you helped in restoring a piece of history.

We might add to Sarah's article that at our last meeting it was decided to hold a workday to start work on the way car on Sunday afternoon, April 13th at 1:30 p.m. Please come and help us as we begin this worthwhile project!

In Loving Memory

The Harvey House Museum has lost a great friend with the death of Mary Sauble.

She and her husband, Pat, have made many contributions to our museum articles. Their last gift is a beautifully framed portrait of Judge Reuben Riggs and his wife, Nancy. They were early day settlers in this area. He died in 1873.

We will surely miss Mary and our sympathy is extended to her family.

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE PAST

Linda Allison recently attended our monthly meeting and presented a framed picture of the Allison family history to our Society. It will be a nice addition in the Museum. Thank You--Les and Linda Allison!

Just a reminder---The Florence Town Company was formed in September 1870. The ATSF railroad reached Florence May 11, 1871.

Florence was incorporated as a third class city June 12, 1872. T. P. Alexander was the first mayor of Florence. It is the notes from this man's diary that we use to write the early day history of Florence, Kansas.

Back To The Good Old Days

NOTES FROM T.P. ALEXANDER DIARY

By Neva Robinson

August 20th, 1888-

The electric lights were shut off on account of low water in the river.

A clipping headed "Fire Notes" reads: Mr. Aves sustained a loss of \$2,500.00 He will rebuild. Mrs. Ira Tharp was terribly prostrated by the fire. A lady fainted in front of ye editor's home from fright. A.A. March's blacksmith shop was cleared of nearly everything from an anvil down to a horse shoe. T.P. Alexander furnished the lanterns on that occasion and worked industriously for the preservation of the property. Our water works have advanced above par; closely followed by our gallant hose companies, both were found to be much needed at that time. The streets were well filled with gentle sex and mother hubbards were seen in every direction. Tom Ferro is a dandy man when it comes to managing a fire. A. A. March and Dan Alexander know how to make the boys "squirt" water. The streets in the vicinity of the fire were pretty well crowded with reapers, mowers, buggies and household goods.



FRED NAMED TO KANSAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

Neva shares this article taken from the business section of a recent Wichita Eagle.....

The late Fred Harvey, founder of the Harvey House restaurant and hotel chain will be inducted at a ceremony June 17th at Emporia State University in conjunction with the Kansas Calvary encampment. Harvey's chain of restaurants and hotels traced the Santa Fe Railroad's expansion westward in the 1870's. At its peak, this first ever restaurant chain included 84 Harvey Houses. Harvey died in 1901.

FROM THE TREASURER



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2008. Due to the bad weather and busy schedules, we haven't met this year until March 11th.

The mail continued to arrive though, and we have received regular dues from 8 members since our December newsletter.

We lost a lifetime member with the death of Mary Sauble. Her family named the Harvey House Museum as a memorial and we have received many generous donations. Mary was a willing supporter of the Harvey House.

We are still having high gas bills and dues and donations are greatly appreciated. We are a 501c3 corporation and any gift is tax deductible.

Regular dues are still a bargain at \$10 and lifetime memberships are just \$100.

The red dot on the mailing label indicates your 2008 dues are not paid.

Twilah Williams, treasurer
P.O. Box 143
Florence, Kansas 66851



The above picture is sent to us by Sue (Ooley) Beattie of El Dorado, Kansas. She reports, "I thought you might enjoy seeing this photo-taken in 1924 or 1925 of Edna Padgett (left), a long-time teacher at Arnold School and Pearl (Palmer) Ooley." These are their costumes for the high school production of "Pirates of Penzance."

Sue (Ooley) Beattie
(Pearl's daughter)

I made this casserole for a church dinner recently and it was well received.

Chicken & Rice Casserole

4 C. diced cooked chicken

1 medium onion, diced and sauteed

1 8 oz. can water chestnuts, drained and chopped

2 14 ½ oz. cans French style green beans

1 4 oz. can chopped pimentos, drained

1 10 oz. can condensed cream of celery soup

1 C. mayonnaise

1 6 oz. Uncle Ben's long grain and wild rice

cooked according to package directions

1 C. grated cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Mix all ingredients together and pour into a 3 quart casserole. Bake for 30 minutes.

This is an easy recipe and quite tasty. I would use real mayonnaise and sharp cheddar cheese.

Marjorie Jackson,
Secretary

Thank You!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

We would like to say a "BIG" thank you to Bob Harris of Marion who provided us the story and picture in the extra insert in this issue. We hope you enjoy this bit of history!

HATS OFF TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Trayce Warner

After living in Florence for the last 18 years, raising our children here and being involved in various community organizations, I had limited experience with the Florence Historical Society and the Harvey House. In spite of the fact that I am a huge history buff, and have great admiration for any individuals and/or organizations that contribute to their community, I had never made getting to know these folks a priority.

Then last summer, Twilah Williams asked me to be her guest at an Historical Society meeting. At the meeting that I attended, there were 6 or 7 members present and discussion involved various projects that were in planning and also nearing completion. I was intrigued by the fact that this relatively small group was accomplishing so much and I considered joining them. At this same meeting, the Antiques and Arts event sponsored by PRIDE was discussed and it was suggested having the Harvey House open on the day of the event might be a good idea. When it seemed that everyone was going to be busy that day with some other activity, I volunteered to greet people and keep the doors open on that Saturday. I made it clear that I had very little knowledge about the Museum and Fred Harvey, but was willing to learn.

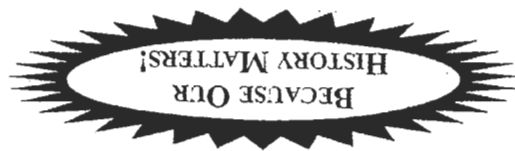
Saturday came, a cold, rainy day and Neva Robinson came down to open the doors and give me a tour, to help me understand more about the history of the Museum. THANK YOU NEVA! What an awesome story of not only the history of our town, but of the efforts of the Historical Society to preserve that history. This small building is a showcase of not only the facts of our history, but also the various people who helped to build our community.

As I have come to more meetings, (and joined the Society), I have seen firsthand the devotion to growth and improvement at the Museum and to other projects in the community, like the City Springs project and getting the Water Tower on the Historical Register. So, as a new member, my hat is off to the Society, its members and its contributions to Florence and the preservation of its history.



Identified Santa Fe employees are operator A.P. Summers, second from left, and next to him is E. Grothe, agent at Canada. Wearing a stove pipe hat is engineman W.S. Garnertsfelder and the derby is being worn by brakeman C.W. Kennedy. Next to Kennedy is Conductor Harry Alderson.





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Florence, Kansas 66851

Box 143

The Florence Historical Society

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #7
Florence, KS

News from the Present..Community Happenings

Our Florence PRIDE Committee is excited to have received a grant to start work on the renovation of Veteran's Park in downtown Florence. Bricks for a walkway may be ordered for \$50 to honor Veterans who have served in the armed services. For more information about ordering bricks, you may call Sue Klassen.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday before Easter at Grandview Park and over 70 children attended. Membership dues are \$25 for businesses and individuals may join for \$15. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month and anyone is welcome to join. Officers for 2008 are President-Mary Jane Grimmert, Vice President-Greg Winn, Secretary-Trayce Warner and Treasurer-Janet Robinson.

The Florence Labor Day Committee has announced that Michael Martin Murphy will be the guest entertainer on Sunday evening on Labor Day weekend. The annual Spring Fling will be held at City Springs on April 26th and the Tour De Florence will be held on May 18th.