

# Harvey House Notes

## Florence Historical Society



August

2007

*A society that preserves the past*

2007  
Historical Society  
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- ❖ *Secretary—Marjorie Jackson*
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# BIG

Thank You!

We would like to extend a BIG, BIG thank you to Sue Klassen for helping to keep the yard at the Harvey House mowed and trimmed. She stepped forward, without even being asked, to help us maintain the yard for the summer. What a gal and what a great job, almost every four days, with very little thanks. Sue, we really appreciate your hard work. Again, thank you.

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### CITY SPRINGS

In case some of you may have forgotten, the Historical Society took on the job of repairing and cleaning at the City Springs. We were disheartened to discover that vandals did a small amount of damage several weeks ago, but that is not going to completely discourage us in preserving history and making a beautiful spot for a quiet retreat. We still need help in trimming of the trees, placing the granite historical marker and building of the stone picnic table. Then, the project will be complete. If someone has an interest in helping us with these items, please do not hesitate to speak up. We always appreciate help.



## Back To The Good Old Days

NOTES FROM T. P. ALEXANDER DIARY  
By Neva Robinson

**December 5, 1891:** *This afternoon the barn of the Cloverdikes was burned; also one horse and three pigs. The hose carts did not come out to the fire. John Alexander, Willie Twyford and Ralph Smith were out gunning and brought in a grey eagle, 6 feet and 11 inches from tip to tip of wings.*

**Clipping July, 1904:** *John Louis' little boy had his arm broken one day last week.*

**September 19, 1904:** *J.B. Cooper resigned his position as city marshal at a special meeting of the council Saturday evening and George Ballew was appointed in his place.*

**Florence Bulletin, March 3, 1921:** *Harry Hoffman received the charter for John McKay Post American Legion on Tuesday, and says the boys will have a meeting immediately after the speaking at the Mayflower next Sunday afternoon.*

**Florence Bulletin, March 3, 1921:** *Paving (of the streets) was arranged for early in the spring but on account of the difficulty experienced by the C.W. Merydith Co. in getting materials the work has lagged all summer and is still uncompleted. The contract calls for the paving of all of Main Street and other streets in the business section.*

**Florence Bulletin, March 3, 1921:** *Free mail delivery is about to be realized through activity of the Chamber of Commerce which has taken the necessary steps demanded by the government. This would have been accomplished by the city government later, as a census has been taken for the purpose of making Florence a city of second class. This would provide free mail delivery, support of a municipal band and other advantages.*



We at the Harvey House are pretty excited right now. The Harvey House has been painted! It's amazing what a new coat of paint can do to freshen things up. Thanks to the painter, the windows were also removed, cleaned and painted. We think Fred Harvey would be as proud as we are. So, if you are in town, stop by and see it for yourself. We would love to show it off!!

### PICNIC ON THE LAWN

Our annual "Picnic" was another successful event. We had decided to have our "Picnic on the Lawn" at the Harvey House instead of in the park. And then it rained and rained! And so—we went to the American Legion Building.

Everyone adjusted to the changes. We had a great crowd, good food and our guests enjoyed visiting. They also were very generous.

It was a fantastic party and we're sorry we did run out of some foods. Please give us your support again next year and THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

### GUESTS AT THE HARVEY HOUSE

Guests at the Harvey House come from near and far. In the past few days tours have been given to a couple who live in Hesston and have a relative who was a Harvey girl; then there was a couple from Bay Minette, Alabama who really enjoyed their visit.

Michael McMillan from Duncanville, Texas made an appointment for a visit while on his trip to Leavenworth for an annual fund-raising dinner for the National Fred Harvey Museum. He was very pleased with what he found here.

It is a joy to visit with these people and to show our "jewel" in Florence, Kansas.

The theme of the food writing in this period's newsletter is WATERMELON. I was looking for a different fruit salad to serve at a luncheon and came across this salad recipe. It was a big hit with my friends so I will share the recipe with you. The melon is a good contrast to the salty feta, tangy onion and tart vinegar. It makes a refreshing and unusual salad for any summer lunch or dinner. It should be served immediately—the leftovers the next day were not as good as the original.

### WATERMELON SALAD

½ small watermelon (about 5 pounds)  
 1 med. Vidalia onion    ¼ c. red wine vinegar  
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 ½ c. extra virgin olive oil  
 2 T. chopped fresh mint  
 4 oz. feta cheese, crumbled  
 whole mint leaves for garnish

Cut the flesh from the melon and cut into bite sized pieces, removing seeds as you go (if necessary); set aside. Peel and slice the onion into thin rings.

In a small bowl, combine the vinegar, a large pinch of salt and few liberal grindings of pepper, and whisk until the salt is dissolved. Slowly whisk in the oil, a few drops at a time. Stir in the chopped mint.

Combine the melon, onion and feta in a bowl, pour the dressing over them, and toss gently until they are coated and evenly mixed. Garnish with mint leaves. Serve immediately.

Another of my favorite unusual uses for watermelon is in a salad dressing for fruit salad or salad greens.

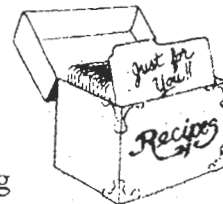
### WATERMELON POPPY SEED DRESSING

1 ¾ c. cubed seeded watermelon  
 ½ t. unflavored gelatin    ½ t. dry mustard  
 2 t. poppy seed    2 T. honey  
 1 ½ t. white wine vinegar

Process the watermelon in a blender until smooth, combine with the gelatin in a

saucepan. Let stand 1 minute. Cook over low heat and add the remaining ingredients. Blend well. Cover and chill for 8 hours. Serve with fruit or salad greens.

I am still asking for your recipes for our cookbook. I have had no responses since my last entreaty and I am becoming a tad discouraged.



Marjorie Jackson,  
 Secretary

### FROM THE TREASURER



Greetings from the Harvey House. We're still having quite a lot of rain, but not as bad when we last wrote. We've had a successful picnic on the lawn, but it was moved to the Legion because of rain.

We have received dues from 11 regular members and 1 lifetime member. We certainly appreciate our members support. We've received checks from several who were unable to attend the fish fry.

We were happy to have Trayce Warner at our July meeting. She is planning to become active in Historical Society. We need more people and anyone is welcome.

Remember, we are a 501c3 corporation and dues are still a bargain at \$10 per year or \$100 for lifetime memberships. Since I'll be gone on vacation when the newsletters are mailed, the red dots will not be on the labels. We'll do it in November.

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

*Notes from the past,  
 News from the present.*

**"COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS!"**

Members of our Florence PRIDE committee have been very busy! We have undertaken the exciting task of re-designing Veteran's Park in downtown Florence. We have begun raising money to complete this project. A landscape design of the "new look" of the park is available. In July we served a meal and were honored to have the "Sons of the Konza Prairie" from Manhattan present special music. Contributions from this event helped make a huge start for the project. We will be busy serving meals during Labor Day and decorating a float for the parade. We have chosen a "boot" theme for Florence. We are selling painted boots for \$100 and \$50 for unpainted ones. So far, we have sold 27!

"Hang up your hat, take off your boots and stay awhile in Florence!!"

Be sure to check out the Labor Day happenings on the Florence web page! Come spend the weekend in Florence.

The Florence Historical Society  
Box 143  
Florence, Kansas 66851

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**BECAUSE OUR  
HISTORY MATTERS!**