

Harvey House Notes

Florence Historical Society



December

2007



From the President's desk....

2008

*Historical Society
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*Items for publication in the
newsletter can be sent to:*

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Time to report in on the many activities at the Harvey House. Seems there aren't enough hours in the day especially to find volunteer workers. We finally got the WayCar cleaned out so that work can begin on the inside. A big thank you goes to Sarah Cope for helping with the project.

If anyone is interested in helping to remove siding from the walls,

WayCar Dispatch---
keeping on track.....

please step forward for we would love to have additional help. After the siding is removed, we can begin the sand blasting. All of these steps are working toward restoration. We don't see many WayCars anymore so this restoration is definitely important for our history.

Another item of interest is the removal of a tree in front of the museum. It was with great reservation that we decided to take the tree out. It was so beautiful in the spring when in bloom, but due to the shedding of berries that were dangerous for those walking, the close proximity to our flag pole keeping us from flying the American flag and the close proximity to the roof line on the house, we made the only decision. The tree must go.

I know that this time of year is definitely not the time to ask for volunteers and workers, but please consider participating with us after the first of the year. We so desperately need help for there are so few of us. The gratification you receive from knowing a piece of history is being saved is great.

Judy Mills

I bought a cookbook this fall that is full of clones of top secret restaurant recipes. The following is a clone of the Pasta E Fagioli soup from the Olive Garden Restaurants. I know some of you are thinking, "why would I want to duplicate food that I can just go out and buy?" I believe that people who like to cook for other people do so because they care for those around them and want to give them something nice. Also, you can make the soup for half the cost and you don't have to drive 50 miles to enjoy it.

The Secret Recipes Version of the Olive Garden Pasta E Fagioli

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 C. diced onion |
| 1 C. julienned carrot | 1 C. chopped celery |
| 2 cloves minced garlic | 2 cans diced tomatoes |
| 1 can red kidney beans, undrained | |
| 1 can Great Northern beans, undrained | |
| 1 15 oz. can tomato sauce | 1 15 oz. can V-8 juice |
| 1 T. white vinegar | 1 ½ t. salt |
| 1 t. dried basil | ½ t. pepper |
| | 1 t. dried oregano |
| | 1 t. dried thyme |
| | ½ pound ditali pasta |

Brown the ground beef in a large pot over medium heat. Drain off most of the fat. Add onion, carrot, celery and garlic and sauté for 10 minutes. Add remaining ingredients, except pasta and simmer for 1 hour. About 50 minutes in to the simmering, cook the pasta in 2 quarts of boiling water for 10 minutes and drain. Add the pasta to the soup and simmer 5 to 10 minutes. Serves 8.

Marjorie Jackson, Secretary

VETERAN'S PARK BEING RENOVATED



The Florence PRIDE committee is compiling a list of veterans to be used in conjunction with our Veteran's Park project. Please send notes of your time in the service. For more information about this project please contact any PRIDE member.

Keep the spirit alive

Along these lines Neva found in T.P. Alexander's diary on February 15th, 1884: Twenty two years ago today I was in the battle of Donaldson, Tennessee. On February 16th,

1884, Fort Donaldson surrendered to U. S. Grant's Army. I was there. (T.P. Alexander)

*Back To The
Good Old Days*

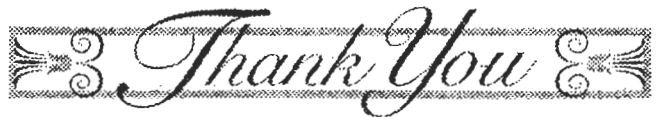
NOTES FROM T.P. ALEXANDER DIARY
By Neva Robinson

News from June 3rd, 1920 - The Florence Bulletin From March 1919 to March this year, Florence gained nearly 600 in population. If the census had been taken this month, it would have shown a gain of nearly double that number. Peabody with a population of 2,467, leads the county in population; Marion takes second place with 2,160 and Florence third with 1,964. It is safe to say that today there are no less than 2,500 people in Florence. The tide of humanity wanting to live here is only checked by the limited living accommodations.

FIND US ON THE WEB!!

Thank you to Jackie Sigwing who does our Florence web site and puts our Harvey House newsletter on the web page. She does a great job.

You'll find the web page at Florence.ks.com, then click on Harvey House.



LOOKING BACK ON 2007, WE WOULD LIKE TO REMEMBER ALL THOSE VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS WHO GAVE OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR HARVEY HOUSE MUSEUM. YOU ALL DESERVE A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE! THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE!



Another year is drawing to a close, and we still have so much left to do. We'll be decorating for the Christmas holidays and hope you can stop by to see us in full décor.

We've had dues from 2 regular members and one new lifetime member, Jack Larkin, since our last newsletter. We received a generous donation from an alum who is a retired Boeing employee. Boeing is going to match the donation. Please take advantage of this match if your employer does this. We are a 501c3 corporation so it is tax deductible.

We are replacing some of our broken dishes and starting work on the way car. Your donations and dues are always appreciated. Regular dues are \$10 and lifetime memberships are \$100. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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



Sign me up—
I want to be part
of
History!!

WHAT A FIND!!

We have recently added another treasure to our collections at the Harvey House.

The Robinsons recently acquired property adjoining our little "estate" in Stringtown, Florence, Kansas, USA.

While trying to clean up, a shed was torn down and an old mailbox found. The box was full of tax papers, canceled checks, tickets for grain sales and livestock sold. So interesting! And then in the very bottom of the box, a paper with an official seal?

This was an official certificate of citizenship for Alexander Louis dated, "the fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy nine", done in Marlon County, Kansas. This is when he became a citizen of the United State of Americal

Alexander Louis came from Belgium and settled in the French colony east of Florence, near the Cottonwood river in October 1858.

There are many descendants. Fred Van Buren and his sisters visit the Harvey House every year at Alumni Banquet time. Their mother, "Dollie" was a Louis. Don Louis was here on Labor Day. He is a son of Bill & Jean Louis.

The original certificate has a few mouse nibbles and a large hole in the very middle, but thanks to my daughter, Kristin, in Dallas, the document has been restored. It is beautiful and hangs in the dining room at our museum for all to see. Come visit!

Neva Robinson

P.S. if you are a Louis and would like to have a copy of this document, let us know.

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

Florence community calendars are available for sale now. If you would like to purchase one, contact Twilah or Mary Jane. They are a bargain at just \$5.00.

WORD GETS AROUND!!

Our Harvey Girls have been pretty busy this year, serving many dinners at the museum. Guests come from near and far.

A schoolbus full of teenagers came from Rolla, Kansas. One of their projects at school was to study about Fred Harvey. They had heard about our museum and so they made the trip to complete their project. They were a great group.

Prize winning author, Sheila Wood Foard visited us in October. Her new book is "Harvey Girl" published by Texas Tech Press. She left us a copy of her book plus postcards.

Loyd Dighero and his daughter also visited recently. His wife had been a Harvey Girl and when she passed away they named our Harvey House for a memorial.

Keith Stokes with "Kansas Traveler" was here in July and Marci Penner of Inman had dinner with us in November. She was with a group of "Capital Area Explorers" from Topeka.

Our guests have come from 14 states this year and many are looking for information about Fred Harvey. Many have had relatives who were Harvey Girls and are looking for information. They are stunned when we tell them our Harvey House was the second Fred Harvey restaurant and the first with rooming accommodations. It was the Clifton Hotel, opened in 1878 and closed in 1900.

Our museum is a part of the actual restaurant hotel. Guests enjoy it very much. We are proud of it. Come visit!



After taking inventory of the dishes at the Harvey House, we decided it was time to replenish our dwindling supply. We were able to find our brand of dishes on the internet, so we stocked up! We ordered some new plates, cups, saucers, salad plates and additional salt and pepper shakers. We are often asked if the dishes we use are original Fred Harvey dishes. People are often surprised to hear our dishes originally came from Sears! They are not what Fred Harvey picked out, but we feel he would be proud of the style we have chosen and especially that we were able to find replacement dishes. So, if you get a chance, gather some friends and come to the Harvey House for dinner, so we can show off our new dinnerware.

Sarah Cope, Vice President

The Florence Historical Society
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Florence, Kansas 66851



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**BECAUSE OUR
HISTORY MATTERS!**