

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1ST QUARTER NEWSLETTER, MARCH, 2012



A LOOK BACK IN TIME

SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2012

FREE Admission
9 A. M. to 4 P. M.

CONTINUOUS EVENTS ON GROUNDS
BALD EAGLE Mountain Men CAMP
Demonstrations of heritage skills

ONE ROOM SCHOOL CLASSES
Quilt Show and Needle Crafts
LIVE MUSIC
MUSEUM OPEN ALL DAY



Old Fashioned Lunch Served in Barn
11 AM — 2PM
\$7.00

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

201 W. Washington, Tonganoxie, Ks 66086 www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org

TCHS GRAND OPENING !!!!

APRIL 28, 2012

IT'S FREE ! ! ! !

This April will be another spring Grand Opening with the Bald Eagle Mountain men camping at the historical site. This has become a traditional event with the Bald Eagle men demonstrating traditional mountain skills, such as bow making, cooking, and other skills necessary to survive in the outdoors.



Always a huge success, the quilt show, directed for the 8th year by Jean Pearson, with help from many, will be in the Reno Church (This church was used in the Movie, "Where Pigeons Go to Die"). The vintage quilts are shown draped over the church pews, and as you can see they are all beautifully displayed.

In the church basement people will demonstrate stitching, bobbin lace, tatting, crocheting, and spinning by Pam Jones, These demonstrations will be on going during the day. Lynn Paul will be the on-site quilter. It will be a GREAT SHOW!!

For several years a large cannon which really make an earth shaking BOOM, has been a delight to kids, big and little. If you are lucky you may get to fire the cannon, but beware of the loudness and protect your ears.

There will be live music from various groups, and from Topeka a group of Native American Drummers, the Standing Bear Intertribal Brotherhood, will perform. If you need to be educated there will be a country school teacher in the Honey Valley School.

Kathy Harrell, sponsor of the Tonganoxie Middle School History Club, will have the club members demonstrating chores which would be performed by young people during those historical times.

Children of TCHS members will offer and guide people in playing old fashioned children games. Hoops, graces, and others will be available.



Laurie Walters fires the cannon

AND THERE WILL BE FOOD!

- a Pulled Pork feast-
cooked by TCHS best cooks



HARLEAN Harlow CARPENTER

Born March 3, 1911; Died June 7, 1937

How did I have Harlean Harlow Carpenter possibly attending school in Tonganoxie, KS ca. 1910-1915? I don't know how I conjured up that date. IT IS OBVIOUSLY INCORRECT!

Fred Leimkuhler and I were working on the "Ghost Town" project. We were in the Coal Ridge School area and he was discussing the Wright Brothers of airplane fame, and their relatives who lived in this area. At the same time he began discussing Jean Harlow (Harlean Harlow Carpenter was her real name). He said that although there were no written records, it was very possible that she attended school in Tonganoxie for one or two months. He believed that this would have been during a family crisis. I can only speculate that my confusion about those dates came from that conversation.

Here are the few facts about Harlean Harlow Carpenter's association with Tonganoxie. Her mother's name was Jean Poe Harlow. She lived in this area and is shown in the 1900 Federal Census living in Tonganoxie. Also, in 1905 Jean Harlow, mother of the actress, was mentioned as "staying in the Tonganoxie area with a few friends this week".

In 1932 as published in Tonganoxie Mirror, Harlean Harlow Carpenter's grandmother had at some time operated a millinery store in Tonganoxie and her name was mentioned in the Reading Club's "memory column".

Furthermore, in 1934 The Mirror stated that Mr. and Mrs. Neal Buffington named their daughter "Jean" after the movie actress, Jean Harlow. At that time the Buffington's were living on the old Harlow place which still belonged to the actress' grandfather, S. D. Harlow.

So! It was likely that Jean Harlow (actress) at the very least spent time in and around Tonganoxie visiting her Harlow grandparents. It seems reasonable to assume, due to the proximity of the Carpenter family in Kansas City, they would visit the Harlow grandparents in Tonganoxie.

The difficulty in determining documentation of Harlean Harlow Carpenter and her connection to Tonganoxie is because Harlean took her mother's name, Jean Harlow, as her stage name.

There were two times in Jean Harlow's (actress) published life that a possible crisis occurred. That would be 1922 when her parents divorced. Her

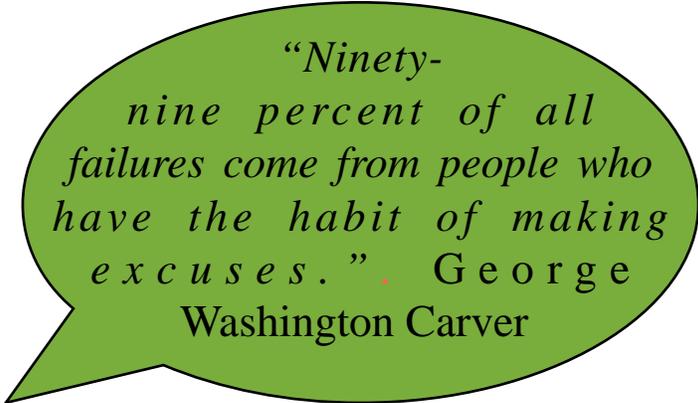
mother was very protective and quite likely sent her daughter to be with the Harlow grandparents.

The second time would have been in the spring of 1925 when her mother was in financial difficulty and had to move from Hollywood to Kansas City. Again that could have been a crisis requiring young Harlean to live for a short time with her grandparents. The window of opportunity in this case would have been small because in the summer she went to Michigan to camp.

Enter Jack Hoey, silent screen movie star. In a 1982 interview with Charles (Jack) Hoey we learned that he knew Jean Harlow. He stated that he not only knew Jean Harlow, but he had attended school with her for two grades in Tonganoxie, Kansas. In that interview there was no distinction made about which Jean Harlow attended Tonganoxie schools.

In my mind I must question that Jack Hoey attended school for two grades with Jean Harlow, actress (b. 1911). He would have been 13 years older than she and it seems unlikely that their paths would have crossed. However, Jean Harlow, the mother (b. 1891), would have been 7 years older than Jack Hoey (b. 1898). It is more reasonable to me that Jack and the mother crossed paths in school.

So! There you have it. It is difficult to sift through all the information-some conflicting- and determine if actress, Jean Harlow, attended school here. It is very likely she visited the area due to the grandparents living east of Tonganoxie. In a personal communication, I am told that Harlean Harlow Carpenter spent several summers on the Harlow farm. That farm is today where Art, Phyllis, and Quentin Hancock grew up. And it is possible that she did attend school here during the times of family strife. That would have been 1922 (age 11) or the spring of 1925 (age 14).



"Ninety-nine percent of all failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses." George Washington Carver



WHO IS THIS?

If you thought this was **John C. Lenahan**, owner of Lenahan's Hardward, and one of the original founders of TCHS, you were absolutely correct. I know of three people who called or e-mailed me that answer. Perhaps more knew the correct answer.

In this photo he is sitting in the sale ring of the Tonganoxie Sale Barn.

AND NOW, WHO IS THIS?

She came to Tonganoxie with her family when they moved from Baker, Ks after a tornado. She was active in the community and active in TCHS. Here you see her in her USO uniform .



That should be enough clues for many to know this person.

"The secret to success in life is to make your vocation your vacation."
Mark Twain



ANNUAL CHILI FEED-

The annual chili feed was a great success. For the past several years this event, held during February,



has been directed by Connie Putthoff. She organizes, directs and is a diligent worker during the event. Connie devotes a tremendous effort in producing a yearly success. **One benefit is that she has a very willing**

work force. The community supports this fund raising event and the work force is happy. The TCHS is



always grateful to the Methodist church which provides the facilities for such a large event.

Lots of work, lots of fun and really good chili and soup. Will

Connie share her receipts? Ask her!!!



HOSTESSES FOR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE

April 24th: Ed and Carol Slawson
Jeff and Cindy Brandau

May 22nd: Caryle and Dan Carr
Donna and Howard Fields

June 23rd at 6 PM. **Watch the date on this one.**
It is Saturday and you are to bring eating utensils and an item of food. Hot dog, hamburgers, and drinks will be provided.

"That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well."
Abraham Lincoln.

In the next story seen on the page below are some pictures. If you know the names of some of the people in the photos, PLEASE LET SOME ONE AT TCHS KNOW THAT INFORMATION.

From time to time unknown photos might be used in the newsletter, and if you know who is seen, please let me or some one know.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER CANNING CLUB
(The first of its kind in the United States.)

In 1912 P. H. Ross came to Leavenworth as the first county agent in the state. He provided a tremendous benefit to the farmers in this region.

Mrs. Bernice Hanway Timmons recognized Mr. Ross' benefits in crop farming, and requested his help in canning. It seems that canning vegetables was problematic.



At Ross' request, Mrs. Timmons wrote to Prof. Otis Hall, the state leader for the boys and girls club in Manhattan. She also wrote a letter to Prof. O. H. Benson, of the National Boys and Girls Club in Washington D. C.

Ross and Hall presented a "cold canning method" of processing food. This meeting took place (June 1914) in the Glenwood

Methodist Church. It was the beginning of the Mother-Daughter Canning Club. It was reported that 6 families attended this first meeting and 45 quarts of food were canned and divided by the 6 families.

The rules were established to allow girls AND boys to be members. Those 18 years old were adults and those age 10-18 were junior partners. If you had no child you could borrow



one. Two of the charter junior members were boys!! Ten boys ultimately participated in this project.

In 1916 the club had grown to 30 teams. This year the club canned over 9,000 quarts of product. The canning of meat and chicken was included in the club. Of course the club was organized for learning about canning and processing food, but mother/daughter bonding was also a side benefit. And as the group became larger and bonded more, they progressed to sharing stories about family and community, providing helpful tips and information

about people in need.

Due to the increased size, the group was divided into North Glenwood, South Glenwood and Dafer. More officers were needed, but Mrs. Timmons was president over all.



To extend their knowledge to others, the club displayed their products at various fairs. At Bonner Springs fair and later at

the Leavenworth, county fair, they gave daily demonstrations, made movies that were shown and placed numerous canned products on display. Their efforts were quickly spread throughout the area, the state, and eventually the nation.

By 1917 many canning teams in other locations had been organized by the Glenwood teams. Mrs. Timmons with the Kansas State College was made a collaborator for each group. She worked with Kansas State College Extension Service giving demonstrations and organizing other clubs. The U. S. Postal service provided her franking privileges.

A cooperative buying program was established. They decided on "Ball Jars", purchased supplies as a group, and kept extensive records of cost and profit.

A blue gingham and white uniform with a white head band was adopted to wear during the canning meetings.

The Mother-Daughter canning club expanded into other extension programs offered by Kansas State. Related areas like sewing, dress making forms, millinery, and home nursing were offered as programs.

They sponsored a hot lunch program for Elm Grove School, gave canned food to Bethany Hospital and did Red Cross work during the war. Financial help was provided to some families in need.

They were given permission to remodel the Glenwood Methodist Church which became the Glenwood Community Center.

In 1920 the Mother-Daughter Canning Club dropped that name and became the Glenwood Farm Bureau.

In later years and still today, groups known as Home Demonstration Units and/or EDU's have been considered by some as extensions from the original Mother/Daughter canning club.

Ferry Evans reported that her mother had been in charge of one of these canning clubs at the Little Christian Church (see last newsletter) north of the Boling Grange on Co. Rd. #5. This would have been in the 1960's.

Just recently Bob Gallagher, donated a scrapbook maintained by his mother, Margaret Gallagher, on the Tonganoxie EHU. It has been a great addition to the Museum.

This story was taken from the Leavenworth Times dated June 1, 1984, and from information at the Basehor Historical Society where one can see a detailed display of this Canning Club.

**“There are a terrible lot of lies going around the world, and the worst of it is half of them are true.”
Sir Winston Churchill**

IT'S IN THE MUSEUM

1. CD by Robt. Von Schlemmer of “The Forts in West”. Leavenworth, Atkinson, Scott Osage, and Snelling, original recording 1982.
2. CD on 100 years of railroading written by Hans Freienmuth and read by his daughter, Shirely. original recording 1983.
3. CD on History of Reno, KS and Phenicies, Sam Kelso, Blakely family, Divelbiss family, Torneden family, and Todd family. approx. time 24 minutes---continuation of this is the History of Reno Church. approx. time 34 minutes.

TCHS & ST PATRICK'S DAY



In the picture (left) you see a green haired

serious, Bill Peak, wondering where the clutch is located. In the next picture you see Bill just after he



found the clutch and is about to pop it.
NOTE SMILE !!

These photos were taken on St. Patrick's day with Dan Carr- beautiful blond- and Bill Peak-turf green-representing TCHS in the annual parade. This is a big affair and kids of all ages really have a good time. Can't you tell!!

From 1936 to 1943 this fire truck was originally used at Ft. Leavenworth. In 1951 the fire truck was purchased by Tonganoxie and used until 1961.

The Truck was retired in 1961 by Tonganoxie, and relegated to outside storage. In 2003 the fire truck came to TCHS. A building was constructed to house it, and in 2006 the restoration began. Al DiSanto was chairman of the board at this time, and had expertise in old restorations. It was restored to its original condition by many hours of work by tseveral members of TCHS.

For more information on the fire truck see the Webb page for TCHS.

PROGRAM FOR NEXT QUARTER

Bill Peak

April 24TH: to be determined later

May 22ND: **Erika Nelson** presents “Monumental Sculptures in Kansas”

June 23RD: Local DJ Bob will be at the annual picnic. Bring the family and dance. Good times, good fellowship, good everything !! This is the picnic noted above that is at the TCHS site on June 23rd at 6 PM.

A Message from our Chairman

--Jim Stuke

Several years ago the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society was named as a recipient of funds from the Pete and Margaret Leighty Trust. The general conditions of the Trust are that the Leighty family is to be honored with a designated display area or building. As a result of being named a recipient, an Exploratory Building Committee was formed in 2008.

This past January a new committee was formed to again explore the possibility of adding space to our existing museum, or to construct a new complex to be built in phases which would allow us to expand our office space, museum exhibits, and storage of artifacts. If the decision is to construct a new building, the construction of a new office space would be phase one. A climate controlled storage area would be the second phase. The construction of additional museum space would be the last phase. The size of the new building would be approximately 3,000 square feet.

At this time the committee is in the "due diligence" process and is exploring all avenues before any decision is made and a recommendation made to the Board of Directors. The committee members are: Chairman, George Cooper, Emil Wiley, Delbert Felt, Susy Ross, Kathy Peak, Bill Peak, and Jim Stuke.

There is no deadline as to when construction will begin, but I wanted to let you know that we are considering a possible major construction project. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact a building committee member.



NEW MEMBERS !!!!

Roger & Phyllis Shilling-Tonganoxie, KS
Chet & Kelli Owens- Tonganoxie, KS
Jim & Dee Cannon- Tonganoxie, KS
Linda Hancock- Tonganoxie, Ks
Eva Taylor Vincent- Clovis, CA

WELCOME ABOARD !!!!!



GOOD SHEPHERD THRIFT SHOP
BY Kathy Peak,
President

TCHS prepared a luncheon for the volunteers of the Good Shepherd Thrift Shop and Food Bank on Thursday, March 29. The committee for the event consisted of Kathy Peak, Chairman, Janet Felts, Pat Ramseier, and Donna Wiley. These were the planners and cooks, but the help of volunteers who donated food items, helped set up, serve, and cleanup

was essential to the successful completion of the luncheon. We worked hard! We had fun! AND we got the job done!!



On behalf of the committee, we are very grateful to all who participated.

REMEMBER BASEBALL STARTS SOON !!! We need help for this event.