

# Tonganoxie Community Historical Society

P.O. Box 785 Tonganoxie, Kansas 66086

January 1, 2011

## TCHS Says Good-bye to 2010, Welcomes 2011

As we begin our 30<sup>th</sup> year as a historical society, this promises to be a busy year for our organization. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Kansas statehood. We hope you will watch for announcements about the many celebrations of this special anniversary, including a few “artistic” additions around the Site.

Before we move forward to 2011, let’s take a brief look back at some of the events and accomplishments at TCHS in 2010.

**January** – New Board members and officers began their assignments. Our own Bill Peak presented our monthly program, *History as a Hobby*.

**February** – Annual Chili Supper a success; Kansas birthday celebrations; author Dr. Malinda Daniel presents *What is Going on in Education Today* at the monthly meeting.

**March** – TCHS fire truck takes first place in annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade; firehouse remodel and displays completed; monthly program *History of Photography* presented by Lesia Winters.

**April** – Opening Day celebration at TCHS highlighted by encampment of The Bald Eagles Re-enactors, a group representing the “Mountain Men Era”; monthly meeting program is *Life of Buffalo Bill*, presented by Bob Spear.

**May** – baseball concessions open for season; the monthly meeting features author and journalist Andrea Warren discussing the *Orphan Trains*.

**June** – Tongie Days; annual picnic at the Site; new highway directional signs installed resulting in more visitors to museum.

**July** – Board member Jim Stuke takes on task of writing grants for TCHS; ballpark concessions in full swing; Kansas Humanities Council speaker Jane Rhoads discusses *Kansas Opera Houses* at monthly meeting.

**August** – TCHS fire truck participates in Leavenworth County Fair parade; County Cultural meeting hosted at TCHS; windmill installed at Site; meeting speaker is Charlie Green, the *Will Rogers of the Plains*.

**September** – art photos of historic Doege barns donated to TCHS; monthly program is *Three Women* by Cathy Peak, Laura Elkins, Keyta Kelly.

**October** – annual student tours at Site; Closing Day celebration with donuts and cider; monthly program is *Twisters, Living in Tornado Alley* by Jay Antle.

**November** – summer maintenance done, winter chores begin around the Site; monthly program is *Burl Ives: Music and Laughter* by Bob Spears and his accompanist.

**December** – Museum ladies decorate Christmas tree for Library silent auction; annual Christmas Party.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the dedicated Board of Directors, the Wednesday volunteers, and all those who step in to help when needed. Good job, everyone!



## Monthly Meeting Hosts

The hosts/hostesses for the first quarter of 2011 are:

**January 25** Jennie Alden, Jean and Lloyd Pearson

**February 22** Cathy and Bill Peak, Connie Putthoff

**March 22** Janet and Jim Stuke, Perry Walters

The host/hostess list for the entire year will be posted on the bulletin board in the Church basement. If you cannot serve your assigned time, please contact Jean Pearson 845-3228.

## News From the Board - Laurie Walters

As we ring in the New Year at TCHS, we continue to focus on ways to improve our historical site and museum. This will be an important year throughout the entire state as we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kansas statehood. Our historical society and museum plans to be a big part of that celebration, as we join forces with other cultural organizations around our area to promote and advertise these events.

One of the items we have planned at TCHS is a canvas sunflower mural to be hung on the north wall of the barn. The painting will be done by local artist Kaycee Fischer, a graduate of Tonganoxie High. We are hoping this artwork will be completed and in place by Kansas Day (Jan 29<sup>th</sup>).

Another item planned for the Site is to rework our weather-damaged entry sign. Member Betty Englen will decorate the sign with a sunflower, and the Museum information presented on the sign will be updated.

It is also time for the annual Chili & Soup Dinner, our first fundraiser of the year. This year's dinner will be held on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 7:00pm. Organized and headed by Connie Putthoff, the Chili/Soup Dinner is one of our major fund-raising projects of the year. Please plan to attend, and to do what you can to support this important event. (See separate article)

In April, the Bald Eagle re-enactors will again set up camp on the TCHS grounds. We hope to expand the craft portion of this exciting event with more vendors, i.e., wood carvers, cornhusk doll making, spinning, and other period skills. We are hoping to offer a chuck wagon dinner as a possible fund-raising venture for TCHS.

Part-time museum employee Melissa Sheinman will be with us until March, and expects to complete her Masters degree in Museum Studies at KU in early 2011. TCHS has been very fortunate to have Melissa and her valuable museum skills for

the past year. We wish her all the best as she pursues her career in this fascinating field. Thank You, Melissa.

TCHS is the recipient of a Pete and Margaret Leighty Trust grant to provide special monthly programs during year 2011, in honor of the state's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jim Stuke wrote the grant request, and Program Chairman Bill Peak has been busy scheduling our programs for the coming year.

Maintenance and chores completed around the Site include the usual summer/winter maintenance, as well as work on the silo. The outside chutes of the silo are restored and in place. Honey Valley School now has new vents, and measures have been taken to prevent snow from entering the attic. Work on the windmill progresses, with the blades repaired and installed, and as spring approaches, additional repairs will be done to put the windmill back in working order.

We wish to extend Congratulations to Don Fulhage, our newly elected Treasurer, and thank you to Carol Slawson, our outgoing Treasurer, for her years of service in this position. The officers and Board Members for year 2011 are:

President – Connie Putthoff  
Vice President – June Hagenbuch  
Treasurer – Don Fulhage  
Secretary – Jenny Alden  
Board Members: Laurie Walters  
George Anton  
Lloyd Pearson  
Ed Slawson  
Jim Stuke

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*Cathy Peak, Susy Ross, Vernilea Fulhage dress in period costume for the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.*



## Museum News - Susy Ross

There are four women who manage TCHS's collection: Betty Englen, Laurie Walters, Carol Stouffer, and myself. We jokingly refer to ourselves as the "Wonderful (Wicked) Wednesday Women." The care of the collection is our main concern.

One of our goals is to have a complete set of Tonganoxie High School yearbooks. We are also looking for Tonganoxie Elementary school annuals, and class photos from the many one-room schools in our district. If you have any of these items, please consider donating them to the museum.

Our latest accession is an old manually-operated brick mold, donated by Jenny Alden. Jenny found this artifact on her property, which formerly belonged to Ernest Bowman, a professional stone mason. The mold is being accessioned and made ready for display in the future.

The museum has accumulated a large number of old books, some which have no connection to Tonganoxie. Lawrence book dealer Howard Hartog has sorted these items for us, dividing the books into "those worth keeping" and "those with no value." Now the collection can be narrowed to a manageable asset, and will include only items which pertain to our community.

We send a huge Thank You to member George Anton for his work in converting our VHS tapes to DVDs. As VHS technology is becoming a thing of the past, this conversion will continue to allow access to all this valuable information. We are also examining ways of having our cassettes converted into DVDs, as these, too, are on the endangered list and need to be preserved.

A lot remains to be done during the winter months, including a lot of planning for year 2011. January 29<sup>th</sup> will be the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Kansas, with many celebrations throughout the county and the entire state. TCHS is jointly advertising our

## ANNUAL CHILI & SOUP DINNER

February 10 – 11am to 7pm

United Methodist Church

328 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Adults \$6 - Age 5-12 \$3 - Under5, free

Tickets for this event may be included within some newsletters. If you did not get tickets and wish to contribute to this fundraiser, or if you would like to have additional tickets, please contact Connie Putthoff at 913-845-2905 or 913-669-5538, or by email at

[conputt@sunflower.com](mailto:conputt@sunflower.com). Inquiries or donations may also be sent to Connie at her home 122 E. Washington, Tonganoxie 66086.

Volunteer workers and donations of food items are needed for this important fundraiser. If you can help, please call Connie.

events with several other county museums and cultural institutions. Watch for further information about these events.

We have several copies of *Leavenworth Kansas "The Great Escape" 2010-2011 Visitors Guide* available at the museum. And we still have two VHS copies of the Michael Landon film *Where Pigeons Go To Die*; if anyone is interested in a free copy, stop by the museum office.



### How to Contact Us . . .

Newsletter @TCHS

P. O. Box 785

Tonganoxie, KS 66086

913-845-2960 (Museum, Wed AM)

913-369-3835 (Home)

[lindadisanto43@gmail.com](mailto:lindadisanto43@gmail.com)

[www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org)

## In the Museum



*American Can Company Adding Machine, ca. 1915/1920, donated by Almeda Tinberg*

The adding machine shown above is from the historic Almeda Hotel in Tonganoxie. It is reported to have been used by Mollie Myers at that place of business. The machine appears to be one of the earliest models, as it has the name “American Can Company, Adding Machine Division, Chillicothe, Illinois” on the nameplate. As the machines became more in demand, the company name was changed to “American Adding Machine Company” in 1924.

Adding machines were first introduced in the mid-1600s; the Abacus was around as well. However, the first adding machine (as we know it) was introduced in the 1880s by Burroughs and Felt. American Can Company applied for a patent of their machines in 1912, and sales began in 1913 (at a cost of about \$35.00 per machine). By 1914 the machines were sold all across America and in most European countries.

The American Can Company machines are distinguished by the setting mechanism, which requires the operator to position stepped finger supports. The accuracy of the entry may be checked before pulling the crank to commit the value to the register. The results are then displayed on dials above the “keyboard.”

For many decades, adding machines were a valuable staple in offices around the world. They began to be phased out around 1985, and rarely seen after year 2000. (Sources: worthpoint.com and officemachine.com)



*“The biggest argument against democracy is a five minute discussion with the average voter.”*  
-Sir Winston Churchill, 1874-1965

## Membership Report

The beginning of a New Year means time to begin our annual Membership Drive. A renewal form is included in this newsletter. If you have already submitted your 2011 dues, we offer our sincere thanks for your continued support. If your membership has expired, or if you wish to join us as a new member, we would love to hear from you. The form may also be used to make a tax-deductible donation to TCHS, or to make a memorial contribution in honor of a loved one or friend.

To determine if your dues are current, check your mailing address label. “(L)” indicates that you are a Life Member and you owe no dues. If you have “(10)” after your name, you are paid through the end of 2010; now would be a good time to renew your membership for 2011. If you have questions regarding your membership, call the Museum on Wednesday mornings (913-845-2960), or call (913-369-3835).

In order to maintain our records, please let us know if you move or change your phone number or email address. This will ensure you receive our newsletters and other mailings.

## In Memory . . .

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Margaret Gallagher of Tonganoxie, and to the family and friends of Martha Leimkuhler of Tonganoxie.





*Bill and Cathy Peak, dressed for viewing the "Mayor's Lighting of the Christmas Tree" event.*



## **Upcoming Programs at TCHS**

*In case of inclement weather, or for information about any of the programs, please call Program Chairman Bill Peak at 913-845-2852.*

**January 25 – 7:00pm - *Kansas and the Civil War in American Memory***, by Brian Craig Miller. A critical re-examination on how the Civil War affected the state of Kansas and why the Kansas struggles have been largely ignored in American history. Mr. Miller teaches history at Emporia State University and is a Kansas Humanities speaker.

**February 22- 7:00pm - *Kansas Cattle Towns***, by Jim Gray. Often a setting for adventure and intrigue, the actual history of cattle towns of the Wild West will be examined. Speaker Jim Gray is an author, speaker, and promoter of cowboy heritage in Kansas. A Kansas Humanities Council presentation.

**March 22 – 7:00pm - *Women in the Civil War***, by Diane Eickhoff, Kansas Humanities Speaker. The role of women in the Civil War has often been overlooked. Using historical photos and editorial cartoons, this presentation challenges the stereotypical idea of women's roles in the war popularized by books such as *Gone With the Wind*.

**April 26 – 7:00pm - *Kansas through the lens of F.M. Steele*** - by Jim Hoy. In 1890, frontier photographer F.M. Steele set out from Dodge City

to record life across Kansas. This program will examine Steele's photographs of that era. A Kansas Humanities Council speaker, Jim Hoy teaches at Emporia State University.

**May 24 – 7:00pm - *The Essential Eisenhower***, by Daniel D. Holt. Holt examines the odyssey of a soldier, from a young man growing up in Kansas to an international statesman. Mr. Holt is an author and former director of Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene. A Kansas Humanities Council presentation.



*Susy and Larry Ross, looking good at the "Lighting of the Christmas Tree" festivities.*



## **Events Around Our Area**

**S**tarting to feel like winter will never end? Need to get out of the house for a few hours? Looking for ways to entertain guests, the kids or grandkids, or just yourself? Here are a few great suggestions for places to go and things to do in our area (after you have enjoyed the programs at our monthly meetings, of course!!).

January – **Exhibit: *150 Years of Leavenworth County*** at Lansing Historical Museum; Kansas Day educational programs along with cake decorating contest to be held on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. Info, call Laura 913-250-0203 for additional information.

Feb 10 – **Annual Soup and Chili Dinner 11am-7pm** at United Methodist Church, 328 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. in Tonganoxie. Sponsored by THCS, for information or tickets, call Connie at 913-845-2905.

Feb 14 – **Annual Valentine’s Day luncheon** at the C.W. Parker Carousel and Museum in Leavenworth. Food, entertainment, and a carousel ride for \$15.00. Information and tickets, call 913-682-1331.

Feb 26 - **Annual “Taste of Leavenworth”**, will be held at the “old” Sears store at the Leavenworth Plaza, 3400 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Sponsored by the Leavenworth Historical Museum Association. For information and tickets call 913-682-3050.



## Did You Know . . .

**A**t the November 1985 monthly meeting of the Tonganoxie Historical Society, President John Lenahan announced that a museum for the community would finally become a reality. A recent item in the “Remember When: A Community Review” column in *The Mirror* (Tonganoxie weekly newspaper) brought this announcement to my attention.

Compiled by Billie Aye (TCHS member), this popular column pulls newsworthy tidbits about our community from old *Mirror* newspapers, and often includes items regarding TCHS. In the recent December 22, 2010, edition of *The Mirror* (pg.10), the following was reprinted in Aye’s column under the heading “25 YEARS AGO: DEC. 4, 1985”:

*“A museum for Tonganoxie has become a reality, announced President John Cass Lenahan Sr., of the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society at the Mutual Savings Community Room. Mrs. Arthur (Mildred) Young has donated her large historical dairy barn for that purpose. Work will begin this spring on the restoration of this building for a permanent place to display some of the artifacts of our community. (Gordon Harmon, Bill Latham and Harold Putthoff were appointed to oversee the improvement of the Fairchild-Knox dairy barn that has been a landmark for many years. A fire in the early ‘30s destroyed much of the building, but the original rock wall is still standing.)”*

In our TCHS newsletter of October 28, 1986 (pg. 1), members of TCHS learned that *“the Society was*

*very fortunate this year to receive a gift of land and two large dairy barns from our fellow member Mrs. Mildred Young. The property has been in Mildred’s family for three generations and the barns mark the advent and decline of an important rural enterprise - - dairying. Plans are to have an access road built to the property and to retain at least a portion of the dairy barn as it was once operated. The buildings will also allow space for a museum and for monthly Society meetings. The project is an ambitious one but work is already proceeding.”*

The October 28, 1986 TCHS newsletter (pg. 4) went on to mention that *“Currently serving on the Board are [sic] John C. Lenahan, Sr., President; Dollie Dempsey, Ted Duncanson, Gordon Harmon, Bill Latham, and Harold Putthoff (Dorlene Mark and Winifred Turner retired from the Board in September). Other officers include Margaret Gallagher, Secretary; and Bob Kasper, Treasurer. Special Committee Chairpersons are Katherine Towell, Ways and Means; Jean Lenahan, Program Chairperson; and Ted Duncanson, Museum Committee.”* Also stated (pg.1) was the fact that the Historical Society *“was 5 years old; and for a 5 year old, its achievements have been significant.”*

We’ve come a long way since the 1981 beginning, the 1984 signing of the TCHS bylaws, and since that original announcement was made at the November 1985 meeting. Since that time, we’ve lost some of our members, and we’ve gained others. We have grown from a small group of caring individuals with a big dream, to a thriving organization committed to preserving the history of our community.

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This has been yet another look back, and as year 2011 begins, we look forward to all the amazing possibilities for our Society and for our community.

Stay tuned - - there’s more to come.

*“The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn.”*

- David Russell