

Tonganoxie Community Historical Society



Members and guests reviewing the exhibit "Hitting the Road: 100 Years on the Victory Highway". Maps and other artifacts from that time period were also on display in the Hay Barn and museum.

100 years on Victory Highway Celebration

By Kay Soetaert

On October 3, 1923, a very large picnic celebration was held in Tonganoxie. Estimates of between 5,000 to 10,000 people attended the grand opening of one 70-mile section of Victory Highway. This concrete paved road connected Kansas City, Kansas to Topeka, passing through several communities including Victory Junction, Tonganoxie, and Lawrence. On Saturday, September 23, 2023 we commemorated the 100th anniversary of this event with a picnic at the grounds.

This picnic culminated months of research and planning which included collaboration with other museum partners and resulted in a very informative six-panel traveling exhibit. Over 100 people attended the event which included the viewing of the exhibit and other local artifacts from our own museum collection. Following that, a picnic was held serving picnic favorites—fried chicken, German potato salad, baked beans, bread and butter sandwiches, and ice box cookies. Music was also provided by Garry Bichelmeyer and Bob Norris inside the museum.

The six-panel exhibit tells the story of one stretch of Victory Highway (now Highway 40). When it was constructed, Victory Highway revolutionized road travel. More people now had automobiles and were anxious to travel beyond their own communities. These trips also impacted these small town's economic opportunities. This exhibit, Hitting the Road: 100 Years on the Victory Highway, is now on display at the Watkins Museum, Lawrence.

Also on page 7 of this newsletter is more information about a local man Ed C. McNerney, who was instrumental in promoting this idea of improved highways. One article reports that Mr. McNerney started talking about this idea as early as 1913 and "he would talk about this at every opportunity." He owned a lumber yard at 4th and Pleasant and understood the importance of being connected to larger cities. and the disadvantages of being bypassed by possible consumers.

Thanks to all for making our 100th-year celebration a huge success. A grand evening was had by all as we continue to better understand our collective local history.



Upcoming Events

TCHS UPCOMING EVENTS

Fourth Tuesday Programs

October 24, 7:00 pm:

"Railroaded: The Industry that Shaped Kansas" with author and historian Leo Oliva; sponsored by Humanities Kansas

January 23, 7:00 pm:

"Tides, Terrain, and Nazis: How the Allies Planned the Invasion of France" with military historian Dr. Christopher Carey from Army University Press; sponsored by the Tonganoxie Civic Club

February 27, 7:00 pm: U.S. Presidential Libraries and Museums with educator Anita Tebbe; sponsored by Humanities Kansas

March 26, 7:00 pm: Holocaust Stories of Resistance and Resilience with author Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg; sponsored by Humanities Kansas

Other Events

December 12, 6:00 pm: Holiday Potluck Dinner at the TCHS Barn.

All events are located at the TCHS site at 201 West Washington.

From the President, Kris Roberts

Hitting the Road: 100 Years on the Victory Highway opened in September at Tonganoxie Days and then moved to the museum. The exhibit highlights the September, 1923 completion of 70 miles of concrete paved road between Kansas City and Topeka. The Victory Highway is the story of how “good roads” came to Kansas due to the hard work of many individual citizens, private groups, along with state and local governments working together.

The exhibit itself was a collaboration of museums in four counties. Brittany Keegan, curator at the Watkins Museum of History, came across an article in the Lawrence Journal World about a five-town picnic in Tonganoxie to celebrate the Victory Highway opening. Brittany reached out to us and that was the beginning of our first joint exhibit with another museum. As we worked together, we were able to draw on the archives of the Wyandotte County Museum, the Leavenworth County Historical Society, and the Kansas State Historical Society, as well as resources from the Gallup Map Company in Kansas City and Frank Brusca’s US Highway 40 website. Each contact made the exhibit richer. Just as this exhibit became better because of the collaboration between the Watkins and our historical society, does our museum benefit from collaboration with the community.

In July, Methodist Mission youth came to the museum to help with some cleaning projects and

then looked at the 1926 diary of a young Helen Schilling, growing up in Tonganoxie. In September, 4-H parents used our barn for an annual meeting.

We are grateful to the Lions Club, who donated a very handsome park bench to the museum. We are also very grateful to the City of Tonganoxie who included the Museum on three of the directional signs that greet residents and visitors entering the city.

Throughout this newsletter, you will read stories about individuals who create community, like variety-store owners and employees who have touched the lives of youth, volunteers who maintain our community’s museum, and individuals who come to the museum to share their stories and artifacts with us. Because of all of you, we will continue to tell the stories of Tonganoxie for years to come. In closing, not every story makes it into an exhibit. One story that still resonates with me is about highway striping – something I, for one, take for granted. But at a time when paved roads seemed to encourage drivers to drive ever-faster, striping became an important safety innovation. From the Tonganoxie Mirror on October 16, 1923: “An initial step on the part of the county commissioners to lessen accidents on the narrow Fort to Fort Road in Leavenworth County, was taken Saturday when the commission decided to paint a four-inch line along the center of the road from Tonganoxie south to the Leavenworth county line.”

About The Tonganoxie Historical Society

Tonganoxie Community Historical Society Mission Statement—

Our mission is to discover, collect, identify, preserve and display materials that illustrate the history of the Tonganoxie community and make these materials accessible to the community.

Hours:

Tuesdays – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesdays – 9:00 am to noon

Saturdays – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Other times can be arranged by appointment.

Contact Information:

Call 913-845-2960 or email TCHSTonganoxie@gmail.com. for more information. Holidays and weather can affect our times. Please call or check Facebook if uncertain.

ADMISSION IS FREE.

We are funded through dues, donations, fund-raisers and grants. Your membership and your contributions are important.

Board of Directors

Ray Stockman, Chairman

Kris Roberts, President

Janet Burnett, Vice President

Connie Tornadoen, Secretary

Shirley Martin, Treasurer

Donna Higbee

Ken Mark

Rose Mangan

Kay Soetaert

Laurie Walters, Museum Director



**TONGANOXIE
COMMUNITY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

100 Years on the Victory Highway



Steve Nowak, Director of Watkins Museum and Brittany Keegan, Curator at Watkins Museum shared with guests the history, collaboration partners, and timeline of the traveling exhibit.



Volunteers moved the picnic inside the Hay Barn when severe weather warning was issued for the evening of event. 100 years ago the picnic was postponed twice due to weather conditions but this time we were spared.



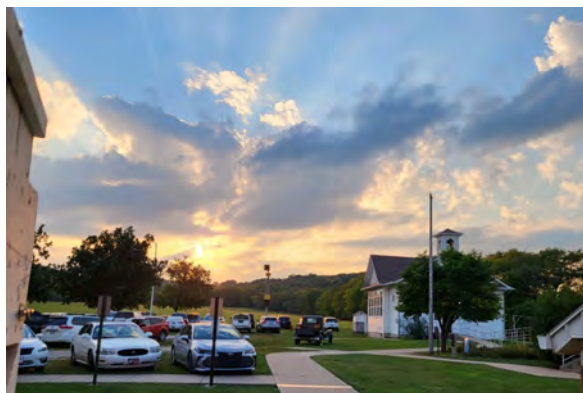
Musicians Garry Bichelmeyer and Bob Norris provided music for all inside the museum. The museum was open during the evening so visitors were also given chance to see more of local history.



Shown are three of the six panels designed by Brittany Keegan of the Watkins Museum, Lawrence. The exhibit was a collaboration of many but Brittany's detail in designing the panels created added interest.



Due to our large crowd and threatening weather conditions some visitors enjoyed the picnic in the basement of the Reno Church. Kris Roberts, TCHS president, welcomed guests in both locations.



The clouds hover over the grounds of TCHS and again we are reminded of the beauty of our setting. The event was well attended and hoping many of our guests continue to follow and support our ongoing programs of preserving local history.

From the Museum Director, Laurie Walters



There's something about Tonganoxie that compels former residents and their children to send their remembrances to the museum. In the past quarter, we received many donations from far and near.

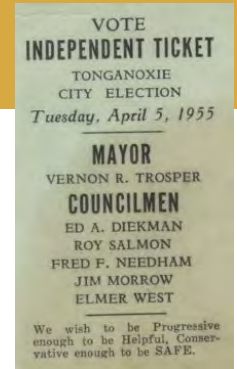
Rob Roberts from Mechanicsville, Virginia is the great nephew of Carl Barnhart, who grew up near Neely just northwest of town. Carl became an educator, collected vintage autos, and was a beekeeper. Rob donated several early pictures of that family including a photo of the Northwestern train depot at Neely, ca. 1910 is pictured above.

Smith School Lindsay Byron Smith of Miami Beach, Florida introduced us by email and phone to his cousin, Suzanne Smith Reeves of Brentwood, Tennessee. Suzanne sent several professionally reproduced family photos of the Fountain Smith family; Lindsay sent in more documents and photos. The Smith family gave land for the Smith school.

Historical photos donated from Caroline and Jim Kahn of San Jose, California came a treasure trove of history and photos of the Kahn, Lukan, and Torneden families. Richard Moore of Tonganoxie donated the 1980-81 THS yearbook.

Independent Ticket

Gene Trospers, from Washington state, sent an Independent Ticket for the City Election of April 5, 1955. Vern Trospers prevailed in that election and served one term.



Baby Shoes

Pattie Henneberg of Topeka donated baby shoes of George Stewart and a wedding certificate of Fred Pappenhausen and Emma Jahn in 1880.



Denholm Family Memorabilia

Mike Gillespie and family donated Denholm memorabilia, including records of William Denholm's legislative service, photos, and two school bells from Elmwood school - the tower bell and a teacher's bell.

Cronemeyer relatives visit the museum

Catherine Cronemeyer and her husband, David Montague, visited from Brooklyn Park, Minnesota in late September. Cat is a descendant of Herman Cronemeyer, who was the brother of Simon Cronemeyer. Herman had a general store here for many years and advertised heavily in the Mirror. He had a large family and Cat brought two large banker boxes of photographs, ledgers, clothing, jewelry, and books for our collections. Trish Cronemeyer Finch and Jeanne Cronemeyer Lovell joined in for coffee and the sharing of photos as the "cousins" had never met and were excited to share family news.



The cousins are pictured from left to right, Trish Finch, Cat Cronemeyer, and Jeanne Lovell.

A Variety of Memories

By Ken Mark

One of my fond memories from growing up in Tonganoxie in the 1950's and 1960's was the variety store that was located at 504 E. 4th Street in the first floor of the Odd Fellows building. Tonganoxie Dental is now located at this address. I probably started going to the store with my mom before I started kindergarten. Hazel Metzger operated Metzger's Variety Store for a number of years. Harriett Hancock worked for Mrs. Metzger. Both ladies were always nice, friendly, and helpful. Harriett's son Quentin Hancock told me that for a while the Odd Fellows would show movies for kids on the second floor of the building on Saturday mornings. After the movies many of the kids would stop at Metzger's to buy candy.

To me, the variety store was a magical place. They sold a variety of products including greeting cards, luggage, fabric, dry goods including jeans and other clothing, toys, candy, and baseball cards. At one time the store also had a soda fountain. I seldom made it past the candy, toys, and soda fountain.

My friends and I stopped by the store often to buy baseball cards. Bill West and I would ride our bicycles to the store, buy as many packs of baseball cards as we could afford and then sit on the front step to open up our treasures, hoping we would be lucky enough to get some player

cards that we did not already have. A pack of five cards and a stick of gum typically cost five cents.

Quentin told me that a number of kids would buy the cards for the gum and toss the cards in the trash. He said Harriett put the ball cards in a number of shoe boxes. He is not sure whether she sold them or tossed them. Neither I nor any of my card-collecting friends looked at baseball cards as an investment in those days. We played games with them, put them on the spokes of our bicycles to make a cool noise, and found other creative ways to use them. Most of the people I know who collected cards back in those days did not save them. I guess that is one reason that baseball cards from the 1950's and 60's are worth as much as they are today.

Mrs. Metzger sold the store to Harriett Hancock in the mid-to-late 1960s and the store was called Hancock's Variety Store. After Zoellner's was sold in late 1965, EK Elston started working at the store. Shirley Schultz also worked at Hancock's. Harriett was so nice. She knew most of the kids who came into the store by name. She would let us know when she received a new shipment of baseball cards. Harriett sold the store to Gwen Vassar in the mid-to-late 1970's.

Whether it was Metzger's or Hancock's, I will always treasure my memories of the variety store we had in Tonganoxie.

Tonganoxie has a connection to Philadelphia

When my wife Cheta and I were recently on vacation on the East Coast, we happened to find the Franklin Fountain, an ice cream parlor founded by brothers Eric and Ryan Berley in 2004. What first caught my attention is the sign at the right that is on the side of their building. This sign is very similar to the Franklin Ice Cream sign hanging in the barn at the TCHS site and another sign we have in the museum. The sign in the museum says "Made in the country at Tonganoxie, Kansas-frozen in Kansas City, Missouri. Franklin Ice Cream operated in Tonganoxie from 1922-1958

in a building on 1st Street across the street from where the VFW Park is today. The

building was demolished in 2011. I emailed Eric Berley and sent him photos of our Franklin signs. I received a reply from Eric that said in part, "We are so grateful to customers such as you in adding meaning and clarity to the history of the Franklin Brand, and its former dairy there in Kansas."

More information at www.franklinfountain.com.



Museum Projects and Exhibits

TCHS received a grant from Freedom's Frontier in September to refresh our website and, among other improvements, to add an on-line gift shop.

The new One Room School exhibit is nearing completion, as volunteers put the final touches on a digital presentation about one room schools in southwest Leavenworth County. Visitors will be able to view the presentation in its entirety or look up the school in which they are most interested. The digital presentation allows us to fit far more information about each school than we could with traditional framed displays. We are indebted to the Wyandotte County Museum for sharing this presentation idea with us.

Honey Valley School will be receiving a new coat of paint on the interior in preparation for setting up our new digital display and for expanding our exhibit on the history of education from one-room schools through consolidation and unification.

The exhibit on schools inside the museum will focus on the town schools. We hope to highlight



Volunteers Janet Burnett and Joy Lomiska working on the one room school exhibit which will open later in the year.

distinguished graduates of Tonganoxie High School.

The Victory Highway exhibit will be on display at the Watkins Museum in Lawrence from October 16 to November 15 and then at the Wyandotte County Museum from November 17 to January 2024.

Maintenance Updates

There have been lots of maintenance projects undertaken during the third quarter. The front doors to the Honey Valley School were sanded, painted and reinstalled. A big thank you to the Smith family for their generous donation and interest in the one room school where their family attended and also taught.

A late spring storm caused damage to Honey Valley School and our insurance will be providing a new roof this fall. There is also some damage to the south siding of the school which will be painted next spring.

John Wood will be refurbishing the inside windows at Honey Valley School later this fall. He has already done the school's storm windows and will do this inside project on site.



John also did the Reno Church windows a few years ago. A grant from Leavenworth County will contribute to this cost.

We will be remodeling the existing bathrooms in the Hay Barn in late October. We received a grant from the City of Tonganoxie to update these two ADA-compliant bathrooms. This has been on our wish list for years so we are excited for this much needed improvement.

Ed McNerney: The Victory Highway Visionary

by Kay Soetaert

As we were researching the timeline of the actual construction of the Victory Highway and its importance to Tonganoxie we continually ran across the name of a local lumber yard owner, Ed C. McNerney. His business was located at 4th and Pleasant and eventually was known as Hunter Lumber for many years. There were references to Mr. McNerney in many issues of The Tonganoxie Mirror starting in 1911. There is no one left to tell his entire story but we have been able to better understand his importance from 1911 to 1924 by reading these newspaper clippings.

Ed was born in Leavenworth County on November 10, 1873. He is listed as a Tonganoxie taxpayer as early as 1903. His ads for lumber products started appearing in the paper in 1911 and one of first posts reports he was moving his scales so he could read them without going outdoors. In 1912 he ran several ads in Mirror touting his new product beaver board. He also bought a new REO automobile in 1912 and in just over a month he reported that he had driven over one thousand miles and still no punctures in any tires.

In 1913 he attended Common Sense silo conventions in Minneapolis and Omaha and quickly sold about 30 Common Sense brand silos in Leavenworth County on his return to Tonganoxie. In 1914 he began representing Tung-Lok silos and local farmer Anton Nirschl erected the first one close to town. This silo was used for demonstration purposes and many were built in next few years. It is also during this time that McNerney has the idea of a concrete highway between Tonganoxie to Leavenworth to Kansas City.

On March 25, 1915 a State Highway engineer attended a meeting at Tonganoxie City Hall to discuss paving Fourth Street. A good crowd attended with lots of interest from property owners on Fourth Street. McNerney was elected secretary of the citizen's group and led much discussion on the different types of paving, costs, and legal requirements. McNerney then organized a small group of nine other local businessmen and they were able to rally other

communities and promote the Victory Highway idea. They spent endless hours working with various County Commissioners, secured financing and eventually the dream of a paved road between these communities became a reality.

A picnic celebration in Tonganoxie was held on October 3, 1923 to celebrate the completion of this 70-mile stretch known as Victory Highway. An article in the May 11, 1922 Mirror reports that McNerney was successful getting the contract for furnishing 26,000 barrels of cement to the road contractors which amounts to 100 rail cars of cement. He also provided 300 rail cars of sand. It continues saying that Ed's friends are gratified to hear of his getting this contract as he has done more than any other man to get this road through, and we all like to see him get some return. After the completion of the road, there is little mention of Ed McNerney. We know he built the house just north of the Myers Hotel and was also involved in the building of some homes on Second Street. He was a Director at the Tonganoxie Savings and Loan for a few years also. In the 1940 census he is listed as living in Stranger, is widowed, and is a renter. An article by Walt Neibarger in October 2, 1973 Mirror states that he fell on destitute times and others took over his lumber yard.

He died February 19, 1948 in Stranger Township and is buried by his wife in Holy Angels Catholic Cemetery in Basehor. They had one daughter who has also passed. He was the uncle to Leonard and Frank Sheehan of Basehor as their mother was a McNerney (but she and other siblings used McInerney for surname). His story had a common theme of progress. His endless vision and hard work reaped many benefits for Tonganoxie and this area. The exhibit "Hitting the Road: 100 Years on the Victory Highway" reminds us how these paved roads revolutionized road travel and opened up opportunities for traveling and commerce. And it also reminds us how so many before us have literally paved the way.

Upcoming Events



Fourth Tuesday Program, October 24, 7 p.m.

Railroaded: The Industry that Shaped Kansas with author and historian Leo Oliva. This program is sponsored by Humanities Kansas.

Leo Oliva has taught history courses at Fort Hays State University, written a dozen books including several in the Kansas Forts Network Series, and he has written more than a hundred articles, most about Kansas history. His presentation will focus on the complicated legacy of the railroads in Kansas. The railroads brought immigrant settlers to Kansas, created jobs, and helped feed beef markets in the East, but at a substantial cost to the Indigenous Tribes of the Plains.

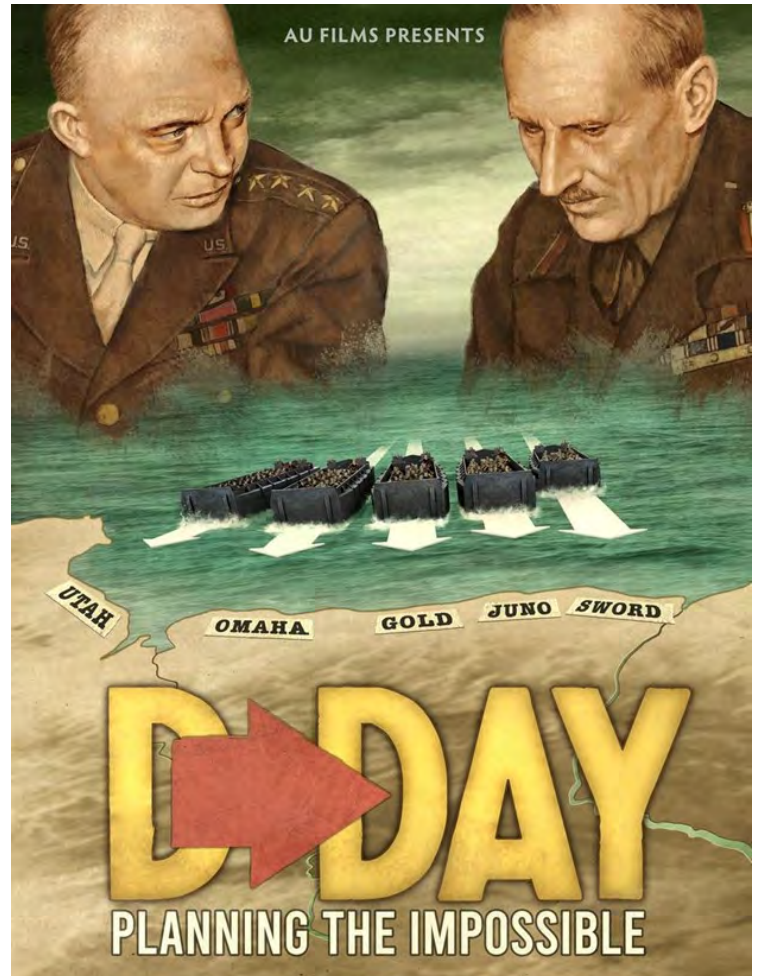
The photo above is of the Union Pacific Depot in Tonganoxie while it was being built.

Holiday Potluck Planned

The Holiday Potluck dinner will be at the TCHS barn at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12th. Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a potluck dish or dessert.

Fourth Tuesday Program, January 23, 7 p.m.

Tides, Terrain, and Nazis: How the Allies Planned to Invade France with military historian Dr. Christopher Carey from Army University Press at Ft. Leavenworth. Dr. Carey researches, writes, produces and directs films for the Army.



This presentation will explore one of the films he has done about the D-Day Invasion. The January program is sponsored by the Tonganoxie Civic Club. Here is link to access films by Army University Press including the film Dr. Carey will speak about in January--D-Day: Planning the Impossible: <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Films/Feature-Film-Catalog/>

Fourth Tuesday Program, February 27, 7 p.m.

U.S. Presidential Libraries and Museums with educator Anita Tebbe. This program will be an overview of all of the presidential libraries and museums with emphasis on the Eisenhower and Truman Libraries and Museums. Sponsored by Humanities Kansas. Anita Tebbe is a lawyer and retired high school and community college teacher.

Volunteer Spotlight

TCHS Museum Volunteers

This quarter the TCHS would like to recognize and thank some of the women who volunteer in our museum.

Laurie Walters has served as Museum Director for ten years. She oversees the receiving and recording of artifacts and is our primary researcher. Laurie served on the board for six years, three as chairperson of the board. Her husband Perry was the newsletter editor for over twelve years. The Walters operated an orchard, with ten acres of apples and two acres of peaches. Laurie is a retired pharmacist at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. She has done an outstanding job as the director of our museum and is excellent at researching special requests that the museum receives.

Jenny Alden has served in the museum for the TCHS since 2009. She was board secretary for three years.



Above is a photo of Laurie Walters and Jenny Alden in the museum office.

She oversees entering all acquisitions into our PastPerfect museum software. This task is fundamental to our ability to research and create new exhibits. The other museum volunteers refer to Jenny as the “computer guru,” helping to keep the computer systems working. Jenny is retired from a fifty-year career in human resources and payroll.

Volunteer efforts help TCHS programs thrive

Donna and Don Talbot moved to Tonganoxie from Missouri in 2016. They are retired high school teachers. Don taught American Government and Donna taught history courses. The Talbots began volunteering with the TCHS in 2017.

Donna is a jack-of-all trades who does cleaning, filing, and serving at TCHS events such as the chili dinner. She has refurbished antique treadle sewing machines and she does a fabulous job of transcribing survey notes of the state of Kansas.

Rose Mangan moved to this area from Garden City five years ago. She attended a child book tour program at the Tonganoxie Public Library and happened to meet Kris Roberts. She asked if the TCHS needed volunteers and the rest, as they say, is history. Rose began volunteering at the museum in 2020.



Above is a photo of Rose Mangan and Donna Talbot.

She records artifacts in PastPerfect. Rose also serves on the TCHS board. Both Rose and Donna are members of the History Camp and Third Grade Field Trip teams.

Quindaro Ruins Update

Those who attended our August 4th Tuesday program on the Underground Railroad and the Quindaro Ruins heard our presenter Dr. Steve Collins express optimism about the future of the ruins. That optimism appears to be well-founded as in early October U.S Representatives Emanuel Cleaver, II (Mo.), Jake LaTurner (Ks), and Sharice Davids (Ks) introduced the Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark Act-bipartisan legislation to designate the Quindaro Townsite in Kansas City, Kansas as a National Historic Landmark.

The Quindaro Townsite was designated in 2019 as a National Commemorative Site. The new designation will provide the site with a more prominent designation on the National Register of Historic Places and it gives the Secretary of the Interior additional flexibility to provide technical and financial assistance to local entities to preserve the site and to provide educational content about the Landmark to the public. This legislation is not only bipartisan but it is also a collaborative effort of representatives from both sides of the state line.

Popular Recipes from Picnic Celebration

We had multiple requests for recipes from the Victory Highway Celebration picnic. When we originally met to decide a menu we thought it should be picnic style and items that families would have taken with them on their road trips on these new highways. Of course fried chicken and bread and butter sandwiches were the first to make the list. Then we started looking at older cookbooks and found some amazing recipes from some of our earlier members who were no longer with us.

The recipes came out of the First Congregational Church Plymouth Guild's Kitchen Companion printed in 1978. The German Potato Salad recipe was from Frances Myers and the Oatmeal Ice-Box cookies were the creation of E. K. Elston. Hope you enjoy!

German Potato Salad

By Frances Myers

1 qt. sliced, freshly cooked (boiled) boiled potatoes

¼ lb. bacon, diced

½ c. chopped onion

¼ c. sugar

½ c. water

1 t. salt

1 T. flour

½ c. vinegar

Finely minced parsley (optional)

Slide and boil potatoes only until tender. Drain and set aside. Cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon, drain on paper towel. Pour off all but 2 T. of bacon grease; add onion, cook and stir until onion is transparent-not brown. Add sugar, salt and flour. Blend thoroughly. Add vinegar and water; cook and stir until smooth and thickened. Add potato slices and bacon bits. Fold ingredients carefully to avoid breaking the potato slices. This can be served hot or cold.

Oatmeal Ice-Box Cookies

By E.K. Elston

Cream Together: 1 c. shortening

1 c. white sugar

1 c. brown sugar

Add: 2 eggs, 1 t. vanilla, pinch of salt

Sift and add: 1 ½ c. flour, 1 t. baking powder

Add 3 c. quick oats

Mix well. Roll into rolls. Wrap in waxed paper and store in the refrigerator.

When needed, slice and bake on lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes.

In Memoriam



Edward E. Slawson, 84, passed away October 28, 2023 at his home in Tonganoxie. Ed moved to Tonganoxie with his family in 1946 at the age of seven and made Tonganoxie his lifelong home.

He was a 1957 graduate of Tonganoxie High School and married his high school sweetheart, Carol Wiley, in 1958. Together they ran Slawson Plumbing and Electric for thirty years, retiring in November, 1998. Ed was the consummate volunteer for many causes in his hometown. Despite running his own business and raising a family of three he was involved with a variety of organizations.

He served on the Tonganoxie Volunteer Fire Department, the Tonganoxie Park Board and the

Tonganoxie Cemetery Association (Hubbel Hill). After retirement, he became very active in the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society.

Ed was one of the leaders when the Society began the conversion of the Hay Barn and Milk Room into a museum and meeting area. He undertook most of the heating, air conditioning, and plumbing for this project. The museum officially opened in 2003 thanks to the efforts of volunteers like Ed and Carol.

The City of Tonganoxie donated the 1932 Pumper Truck to the Museum in 2023. Ed steered the truck to the site as he was towed by Delbert Felts. Over the next few years a dedicated group including Ed succeeded in getting the truck back to being road-ready. Early on they covered the truck with tarps but eventually this same group built the structure that we call the Fire House to provide a home for



the truck and other firehouse-related memorabilia. This pumper truck is used often in local parades.

There is really nowhere on the grounds of the museum where you can not see some of the works done by Ed. Not only did he bring a valued skillset as a volunteer but he was a team player during the days when so much of the groundwork was being done at our site. We are forever grateful to Ed for his contribution to not only the Historical Society but to the community.



Very fitting that we had Ed's 1931 Ford Pickup at our recent picnic. A big thank you to the family for bringing despite the threat of severe weather.

Tonganoxie Community Historical Society
201 West Washington Street
P.O. Box 785
Tonganoxie, Kansas 66086

Year End Considerations

As we move to the end of another year, many people consider making donations to charitable organizations. The TCHS is a non-profit community-based organization that depends upon the efforts and generosity of its members and of others in the community to help fulfill our mission.

One way you could help support the TCHS is to make a donation by cash or check.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, you could also support us through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) which is a direct funds transfer from the custodian of your retirement account to the TCHS that can be counted as your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

You can also help us by encouraging friends and family members to become members of the TCHS. Individual annual membership is \$15 and annual family membership is \$25. An individual can also become a life member for \$150. Membership forms are available on our website.

Another way to support the TCHS is to volunteer. We currently have some wonderful volunteers who perform a variety of tasks but additional volunteers are welcome.

You can also support us by attending our various programs, exhibits, and events and encouraging your friends and family members to come as well.

We truly appreciate your support of the TCHS.