

BURLINGAME HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Volume 3, Issue 2

June 30, 2007

Upcoming Events

July 4 Museum Closed for holiday

Aug 26 Annual Fish Fry at Annex
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sept 13 Great Santa Fe Trail Horse Race at Burlingame Museum Open

From the Chair

April 2007 found my name on the ballot for Burlingame city council. After the smoke cleared I was one of the candidates to come out on top.

It seems there is much concern among some town residents that the museum is receiving a utility abatement from the City of Burlingame. As some of us know, our wonderful museum has come a long way in the five short years it has been in existence. This is partly due to the support it receives from the City. Without this support it would be a challenge for the BHPS to pay the utility bills and have anything left to support the programs and other operating expenses. With this issue facing the society with the city government, it is with much consternation and a heavy heart that I have resigned from the museum board. By resigning I have removed any potential conflict of interest issue. It is my belief that my vote on the council will be more benefi-



cial to the museum than my vote on the museum board. I truly have the best interest of the museum at heart and will do all I possibly can to see that it continues on in the manner it has for the last five years. I know I leave the museum in very capable hands.

I do want to express my thank you to each and everyone who have supported and encouraged me in regards to the museum.

Sincerely yours, Carolyn Strohm

MISSION STATEMENT

The objectives of the Burlingame Historical Preservation Society, Inc., will be to preserve and maintain the Burlingame area history, oral or written, buildings, Santa Fe Avenue, historical sites and artifacts, and make it available to the public to further their education and knowledge of the Burlingame community and its history.

Research Room Receives Tax Records

We are pleased to announce the addition of the Osage County, Kansas tax records, 1872 – 1930, as a valuable resource available for use in our genealogical research room.

These records were previously at the Lyndon Carnegie Library. Due to limited space in their facility, and their need to utilize the space these records occupied, the records were donated to us. These records provide much information and are an excellent resource for anyone doing family research.

We would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Lyndon Carnegie Library, Sarah Walker-Hitt, Librarian, and all their volunteers who helped at Lyndon to load the books for transport to our research room. These helpers were Sarah Walker-Hitt and Dennis Hitt, Sharon and Kevin Cully, Martha

Gregoire, Devin, Kim, Chelsea & Caroline Sprecker, Maynard Smith, Caleb Strohm and Mike Fagan.

Once the books arrived at the museum, waiting to unload them were Carolyn Strohm, Scott and Stephanie Teeselink, Larry and Kathy Smith, Kevin and Andy Harris, Brian Droege, and Maynard Smith, and Linda Fagan.

We are indebted to Arlene Jennings of New York, who graciously spent a portion of her time while visiting here at the end of May compiling a list of individuals for the 1890 tax year. She completed several books and the remaining books are in the process of being finished. This is being done as an effort to provide a list of residents (adults only) of the area during this time, since the 1890 federal census records are not available.

Reflections on the War: Women and Their Civil War Quilts

This KITES exhibit was on display at the museum from May 19 until June 24th. We purposely planned this exhibit for this time period in order to attract more visitors to the museum during Rodeo Days, Alumni/Memorial Day Weekend and the museum's 5th Birthday Anniversary.

The exhibit was widely advertised and proved to be very well attended, as 207 visitors signed the guest book during this period of time.

The Kansas State Historical Society offers other traveling exhibits and we will utilize this resource again in the future.

Burlingame Rodeo Days, May 19, 2007

A large crowd attended this annual event with an abundance of activities from early morning until the lights went out at the rodeo grounds late in the evening.

As a first-time effort, the Heirloom Appraisal held at the Schuyler Annex generated some interest, both as participant and spectators.

A hungry crowd arrived after the parade for the taco dinner and barely an hour had passed when all the taco meat was gone.

Tickets continued to be sold throughout the day and the beef drawing was held after the taco supper. The winners were Steve & Ashlie Thomas and Misty DeDonner. Both winners received a quarter of beef.

Volunteer Recognition & 5th Birthday Anniversary

Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless; they are not paid because they are priceless! Our priceless volunteers for 2006 were Mike Barlow, Harlan Bevitt, Helen Briggs, Sylvia Calkins, Brian, Christi, Chance, Allison & Dalton Droege, Linda Fagan, Jean Granger, Andy Harris, Shirley Hayden, Steve, Josh & Aundrea Koger, Bill & Kathy Kraus, Don & Carol Kurtz, Judy Masters, Connie Meyer, Kathelene Michaels, Phyllis Michaels, Jim & Nancy Nelson, George & June Newton, Virgil & Betty Patrick, John & Karen Pickett, Barb Quaney & Doug Jones, Becky Quaney, Martin & Nancy Quaney, Laura Reves, Delores Rieck, Chelle Rollins, Jane Roth, Shirley Seastrom, Buck Short, Mariah & Joshua Shultz, Suzanne & Katie Simon, Michie Slaughter, Larry & Kathy Smith, Maynard & Betty Smith, John Steel, Dale & Carol Stout, Heidi, Christian & Amy Stromgren, Dean & Carolyn Strohm, Jim, Dena, Trey, Caleb, & Breanna Strohm, Scott &

Stephanie Teeselink, Judy Thompson, Jim Welch, Josh & Amanda Welch, Fred & Georgia Widau and June Workman.

Willie Prescott, formerly of Burlingame, was the guest speaker at our birthday anniversary party. Delores Rieck gave an interesting and informative presentation on quilts. The Pipers of the Plains, a bagpipe group from Topeka, provided us with bagpipe selections and entertained questions regarding bagpipes and attire. Birthday cake and punch was available for those attending.

Giveaways were given inside the museum during the day. Door prizes were given at the end of the event. Winners were Phyllis Michaels and Susie Smith received canvas lawn chairs. Hazel Smith received an umbrella. Georgia Denny, Linda Wallingford and Kathy Williams received museum tote bags. Those receiving museum caps were Evelyn Musick, Caiden Lindbloom and Judy Schwanz.

Thank you, Carolyn

It was with great reluctance the board of directors accepted the resignation of Carolyn Strohm, who has been president of the Burlingame Historical Preservation Society since 2002.

How could we ever begin to say "thank you"?

Carolyn, you have worked so many long hours above and beyond the call of your obligation as president to make the museum operation appear to be an effortless task. Knowing an organization is only as strong as its weakest link, many times you added your name to a link that had no name in order to get a task completed and maintain the strength of the chain. You were always the first person to arrive at

any given gathering regarding the organization, and always the last to leave. You always remembered every little detail that never crossed the mind of anyone else.

You gave us your heart and soul. Your passion is obvious. We know preserving Burlingame's history for future generations is of utmost importance to you.

Merely saying "thank you" falls vastly short of expressing our deepest and most sincere appreciation for all you've done and the strong leadership you've provided. Please know your efforts truly made a difference. Please accept our sincere heartfelt thanks. Congratulations on a job well-done, and best wishes.

The Burlingame Historical Preservation Society Story

It started with a dream in the spring of 2001. Seven people sat around a table with a common goal-to preserve and celebrate the history of Burlingame. Kurt Kessinger, Kathy Kraus, Karen Smart, Carolyn Strohm, Mitzi Patterson, Sheila Curtis and Dennis Klumpe continued to meet and formed a non-profit organization known as the Burlingame Historical Preservation Society (BHPS). By-laws were written, officers elected, and other legalities were resolved.

BHPS set out to acquire the Schuyler Elementary School, a structure built in 1902 on a site where the first hanging in Osage County occurred. The school was vacated when the new elementary school was built. Members of BHPS had either attended Schuyler and/or had children who had gone to school there, and the desire to keep it intact was clear.

Roger Harmon had purchased the school and annex but decided to sell both to the BHPS. The only problem was a lack of funds; however, this obstacle did not stop the group. Word spread and donations came in from others who shared the same dream. In October of 2001 the sale was finalized.

The BHPS decided to turn Schuyler into a free museum, showcasing artifacts from Burlingame and the surrounding areas. The buildings had to have liability insurance and structural work was needed. Brick repair, new guttering and downspouts, painting, replacement of glass in the door, and deep cleaning was carried out by volunteers.

Donations of items began to pour in. Arrowheads, restored toy cars, photos, items from Dr. Fred Schenk's office, Patterson's grocery store, and coal mining memorabilia began to fill the rooms. A bed and other items belonging to long-time elementary teacher Pearl White found a nook. The railroad and farming were also represented. Shelving was either donated or bought for a minimal fee.

The BHPS soon realized they would have to set up a catalog system, designate uses for specific rooms, and create displays. Members traveled to other museums for information and found for this dream to come true, the BHPS needed the cooperation of the community and city officials, and to add more members. A membership drive was launched.

To help the museum become a reality, the city council agreed to an abatement on utilities. This action helped the BHPS use donations to paint, upgrade the fire alarm system, and repair the boiler, among other major renovations. Godderz Law Firm donated hours of legal guidance, the First State Bank helped set up accounts and the Burlingame Civic Improvement Corporation made it possible to purchase needed office equipment. Hotchkiss Tax Service and Dennis Klumpe worked on 501C forms for tax purposes. Other businesses and individuals contributed their expertise and support, without which the museum would not have been able to operate.

The lights dimmed briefly March 2, 2002 when Kurt Kessinger passed away. His spirit and determination to get the museum open provided the incentive for remaining board members to continue. The grand opening of the Burlingame Schuyler Museum was June 22, 2002.

In the five years since, members of the board have changed but not the purpose. The most important component of the success of the free museum has been the volunteers and members. Volunteers who open and close the museum average 720 hours per year. Those who keep the museum clean log 1120 hours and the grounds crew puts in at least 200 hours. Preparing for special programs and hosting fundraisers average 1200 hours and the BHPS board gives 2000 hours of their time per year. Current board members are Kathy Kraus, Glen Masters, Brain Droege, Linda Fagan, Kathy Smith, and Stephanie Teeselink. Long-time board president Carolyn Strohm recently submitted her resignation to avoid a possible conflict of interest since she is also a member of the City Council.

The Burlingame Schuyler Museum has become a focal point for visitors from across the nation and beyond. Between 2003 and 2006, the museum had 1740 visitors who actually signed the guest book. Many visitors did not. These included international visitors from Canada, England and Japan, besides those from 32 states and all areas of Kansas. Since January of this year, 542 people have toured the museum.

Artifacts are added on a regular basis. Graduation class pictures from the 1940s to present line the hallway. Photos of Burlingame taken by Allen County Community College photography students are displayed each semester.

A genealogy and research room continues to grow. Tax records, obituaries, wedding announcements, and other forms of research are available to anyone who wishes to use them. Although not for general public use because of age, bound volumes of old Burlingame newspapers have been loaned by Kathy Kessinger and currently the owners of the Osage County Herald-Chronicle.

In addition to providing services to the public, the BHPS and the museum have also become involved in community activities. A Festival of Trees and Holiday Home Tour are favorites during the Christmas celebrations the first weekend of December. The museum also hosts the taco feed during Rodeo Days and various dinners throughout the year. Kansas Day festivities were held at the museum this year, much to the delight of the 186 elementary school students who visited with their teachers. A restored 1938 fire engine truck is on loan from the Burlingame Fire Department. Several boys working on Eagle Scout projects helped with the construction of room displays. The museum joined in making the 150th birthday of Burlingame a memorable event in 2004.

For those people who have not actively participated in the success of the museum, questions arise about funding. Besides the donations, membership dues, memorials, and other miscellaneous contributions, the BHPS has held fundraisers to help offset operating costs. From 2002 to and including 2006, the amount from fundraisers totaled \$14,285.17 and total revenue was \$59,889.32. However, during the same time span of five years, operating costs amounted to \$57,214.88. These included building maintenance and repair, office equipment, and furniture and fixtures. The continued support from the community and the governing body of the city is fundamental toward keeping this positive organization preserving and promoting Burlingame.

Recently the Burlingame Schuyler Museum celebrated its fifth year in operation June 24, 2007, featuring speakers and recognizing all those people who have volunteered. The idea of a free, non-profit museum could not have grown without their generosity, support, and love of Burlingame's history.

Langston Hughes, a well-known poet of Kansas origin, wrote about a dream deferred - "...maybe it just sags like a heavy load or does it explode?" The group of seven people who joined ideas five years ago would not let their dream of turning a historical structure into a museum be deferred. Instead of exploding, the dream has grown into a reality that will continue to be a vital part of the Burlingame community.

Sheila Curtis

The Great Santa Fe Trail Horse Race

Burlingame will be one of the host villages during the Great Santa Fe Trail Horse Race in September. This race will benefit the Imus Ranch, a working cattle ranch for kids with cancer, as the race charity. Participants will be in Burlingame Sept. 13, 2007. Various activities are being planned within the community during this time.

The museum will participate by opening on Sept. 13, 2007, though it is not one of our regularly scheduled days for opening.

Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser

Our annual fish fry is coming up on Sunday, August 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the annex.

We will offer fish, macaroni and cheese, chicken nuggets, coleslaw, tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, green beans, coffee, tea and dessert. Donation for age 5 and under is \$3 and all other ages are \$6.

This has been a very popular fundraising

event for us in the past, and we hope that it will be successful again this year. Mark your calendars now and come join us for another delicious meal!

Volunteers will be needed to help with this event. If you can help, please call the museum at 785-654-3170 and leave a message.

We hope to see YOU there !

Honoring Our Veterans Memorial

HONORING OUR VETERANS memorial is designed to honor all veterans, men and women, active duty and reservist, who have served at any time in the armed forces of the United States.

Each memorial includes a military information sheet for the veteran. While a photograph certainly personalizes the memorial, not all participants have included one.

This unique and personalized memorial is assembled as a permanent record so the service and commitment of each veteran will long be re-

membered. The memorial is located in the genealogy research room at the Schuyler Museum

Veterans from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, peacetime, reservists, and currently serving persons comprise the memorial at this time, with over 100 participants, both men and women.

Any veteran is eligible to participate. We would be most happy to include you, your family member or any veteran you know in this veteran's memorial as a tribute to the military service served.

BURLINGAME HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

117 S. Dacotah
P. O. Box 74
Burlingame, KS 66413

Phone: 785-654-3170
Email: museum@burlingamemuseum.org

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.BURLINGAMEMUSEUM.ORG
