



Treasuring the Past  
Embracing the Present  
Envisioning the Future

The Barry County  
Museum  
is located south of  
Cassville  
on Highway 112

**HOURS**  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday—Saturday  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday

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# BARRY COUNTY REFLECTIONS

A Quarterly Publication of the Barry County Museum

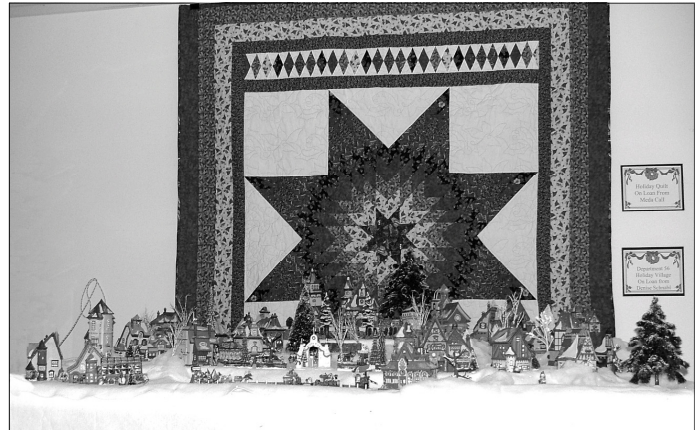
Volume II, Issue 4 December 2009

## Christmas displays add cheer to museum

Visitors to the Museum are in for a visual treat this holiday season. From the candy cane pole outside the main door and all throughout the gallery, the Christmas season is on display.

New this year are displays provided by area merchants. Letters were sent to local businesses in August inviting them to create a display showcasing their merchandise. Accepting the invitation this year are: Cassville Florist, featuring wreaths, jovial snowmen and holiday arrangements; Chez Notre, whose display includes fragrances and pictures in addition to holiday décor; Designs by Debbie, offering purses, candles and holiday trimmings; Tomblin's Jewelry and Gifts, offering gifts from jewelry and ceramic pieces to lotions and baby gifts; and Purdy Flower and Gifts, whose display encompasses Christmas, a military tribute, and family heirlooms. A quilt made using dresses from owner Judy Davis's childhood and pieced by her mother and grandmother adorns the wall of the display that also features a mandolin owned by Urey Jenkins, grandfather of owner Gary Davis. The wedding dress worn by Gary's grandmother is featured in the wedding section of their display.

Many items on display in merchants' booths are for sale, and interested parties



Christmas village and quilt on display in the museum entrance hall. The Lone Star quilt on loan from Meda Call was quilted by Wanda Weddington. The Christmas Village is on loan from Denise Schnabl.

are urged to contact the business.

The Museum hopes to offer this opportunity to businesses throughout the county annually.

Additional holiday exhibits on display throughout the gallery include nativity scenes and vintage Santa Claus items on loan from Roger Cusick, Snoopy tree and ornaments on loan from Sherry Blair, Christmas bells on loan from Joyce Cusick and Painted Ponies, Longaberger Tree Trimming Collection and Boyds Bears exhibits pro-

vided by staff members.

The attractive displays were enjoyed by approximately 100 individuals during the book signing for volume 9 of *Lifetimes of Memories—Voices of Barry County* held November 20, 2009. The most recent class of local celebrities included Sue (Hawk) Blythe, Geneva (Mitchell) Girouard, Jean (Sanders) Melton, Robert and Marjorie (Young) Ryder and George and Opal Fern (Beam) Utter.

The displays will remain up until the end of the year.

## Staying informed

If you would like to continue receiving copies of the newsletters, please take a minute to review the membership information on page four.

Many events take place at the Museum each year, and it

is not possible to include every one of them in the newsletters. The Museum website is updated frequently, and provides a list of books available in our gift shop.

Take a moment to visit us at [www.barrycomuseum.org](http://www.barrycomuseum.org).

# Central School - Rural School District # 50

The following information was taken from a newspaper article written by Roxie Scott and provided by Berniece Medlin.

Central School was built in 1890 and stood on the corner of Second and Bond Streets in Monett. It was, at that time, both a grade school and a high school.

The high school students published a monthly paper called *The High School Chat*. In athletics it was noted: "The football season is now ended for this year, and the high school team can boast of not being scored against for the season 1904."

On the first page of the March, 1905 issue, printed in large letters reads: "Hurrah! Hurrah! Monett will have a new high school building."

In 1906 the senior class had commencement exercises at the Monett High School. There were ten graduates.

Ms. Scott recalls then that Central School was strictly a grade school. The first five grades were on the first floor, and those students were not allowed on the second floor, where grades six, seven and eight were situated.



Central School—Monett, Missouri photo courtesy of Elaine Orr and Donna Cooper, Barry County MOGenWeb

Ms. Scott, who had attended sixth grade at Forest Park, returned to Central for seventh and eighth grades, and recalls how wonderful it was to climb the spiral stairway to the second floor.

On the south side of the building there was a heavy iron grill fire escape. Fire drills were held

often, and Roxie wondered which would be best—to get slightly singed or to break your neck at the bottom of the stairs. The stairs didn't go to the ground, you just jumped!

Ms. Scott wrote, "There were 75 graduated in my eighth grade class, and we had graduation exercises at the Monett High

School. Eighth grade programs were very special."

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*The Central School is just one of 112 rural Barry County schools currently being researched by the Rural School Project. Fran Bolton and Penny Bailey meet Wednesdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Barry County Museum.*

*If you have photographs, information, memories or anecdotes about any rural school please contact them at the Barry County Museum (417) 847-1640.*

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Front: Gordon Gray, Virginia Barnett, Sharon Grieb, Margaret Cook, Mary Ruth Thomas, Mary June Cruise, Priscilla Evans, Anita Sue Weddington. 2nd Row: Charles Elswick, Gaylon Ferguson, Unknown (possibly Glen Mulkey), Gary Wallner, Gale Pennell, Teddy Roller, Bobby Cottingham. 3rd Row: Kay Ebner, Carole Ann Winton, Pat Crane, Tommy Wolf, Barry Lane Harmon, Jimmy Adams, Janie Mooney, Joan Boyer. 4th Row: Teacher, Miss Pope (Later married Howard Schwandt), Unknown (possibly Sara Parker), Billy Joe Vincent, Wanda Swindell.



Central School 1949-1950

Photo Courtesy Ted Roller

# Featured Recipe—Hash Brown Casserole Poetry Nook



Jewell Davis

The featured recipe was submitted by Jewell Davis of Purdy.

Jewell Nickle was the only child of Walter and Cordelia (Vaughan) Nickle. In addition to farming, Jewell's parents operated several stores in Barry County. Consequently, Jewell attended many different schools, graduating from Butterfield. Jewell attended Monett Junior College and taught schools in Butterfield and Purdy.

Jewell met Ralph Davis at a song convention at the Macedonia Church east of Purdy.

Calvin Henderson, who sang with the Macedonia Quartet, was Ralph's uncle. Ralph, who sang baritone, at one time or another sang with all the fellows who were in the Macedonia Quartet.

Jewell and Ralph were married December 21, 1940. They co-owned Farmer's Flour and Feed Company in Purdy with Damon Wormington, Ralph's cousin.

Jewell and Ralph had four children; Sammye (Beck), Sallye (Malloy), Kelly and Perry.

Ralph passed away in 1998. Jewell, 89 years young, continues to live in the home in Purdy that they built in 1957. Jewell Davis was featured in Volume 6 of *Lifetimes of Memories—Voices of Barry County*.

Put a two-pound package of frozen hash brown potatoes in a 9 x 13 oblong pan. Mix:  
 1 cup sour cream  
 1 can cream of chicken soup  
 1 small onion, chopped  
 Salt and pepper to taste  
 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese

I stick melted oleo  
 Pour over potatoes.  
 Sprinkle crushed corn flakes over the top and add a little more melted oleo over the flakes. Bake 1 hour at 350°  
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Jewell shares, "This was a recipe of Wilma Mizer Hall's, a beloved niece well known in Cassville, especially at the senior center. She was killed in an auto accident near Monett a few years ago."



Wilma Hall

Wilma Louise Mizer Hall was featured in Volume 3 of *Lifetimes of Memories—Voices of Barry County*

## Way Down in the Ozarks

I am way down in the Ozarks,  
 just where I want to be.  
 Where the hoot owl and the  
 chipmunk hide in the hol-  
 low tree.  
 And you can hear the cow  
 bells, sometimes they ring  
 all night.  
 The river is full of rainbows,  
 but they won't hardly bite!  
 And the cedars grow up on  
 the hill, it is a pretty sight.  
 Take it when the snow is on,  
 of a moonlit night.  
 And away up on hillside, the  
 rabbits eat the grass.  
 And if they get real hungry,  
 they eat the sassafras.  
 So, I am way down in the  
 Ozarks, just where I want  
 to be.  
 The river and the timber is  
 Home Sweet Home to me.

Written by Ernest Eugene  
 Bedgood  
 Submitted by his sister,  
 Barbara Selter Bradford

## Christmas fun

**The Three Stages of man:**  
 He believes in Santa Claus.  
 He doesn't believe in Santa  
 Claus.  
 He is Santa Claus.

### A Dog's Christmas Prom- ises

Christmas is for humans,  
 and I will not ruin the sur-  
 prises by opening all their  
 presents.

The bowl underneath the  
 Christmas tree is not a dog  
 dish. I will not drink from it.

I will not piddle on  
 Grandma's Christmas pre-  
 sents under her tree as soon  
 as we enter her house.

### Did You Know

In 1907, Oklahoma became  
 the last US state to declare  
 Christmas a legal holiday.

## Kathy Snyder wins Checkmate quilt



Kathy Snyder of Belton, Texas was the lucky winner of the quilt.

While not a native of Barry County, Ms. Snyder visits Roaring River several times a year, always including a visit to the Museum.

This year's quilt, Checkmate, created by the Ozark Quilters Guild was given to the Museum for fund raising.

The Guild has pledged a music-themed quilt for next year's fundraiser, in conjunction with the New Harmonies exhibit.

Postage

### The Barry County Museum

- Collecting, preserving and exhibiting items that illustrate the past, present and future of Barry County.
- Fields' Photo Archives - a collection of more than one million negatives available for public viewing and researching.
- Oral History Project - capturing the stories of long-time county residents to create a collective memory of Barry County life.
- Display space for community art exhibits and collections.

## 2010 Save the Dates



**Volunteer Peggy Calton and author Frankie Meyer manning the Barry County Museum's booth**

The Barry County Museum participated in the annual chili and salsa cook-off held October 24 on the square in Cassville.

In addition to offering our *Lifetimes of Memories—Voices of Barry County* oral history series for sale, author Frankie Meyer shared the booth to sign copies of her new book, *Bushwhackers, Visions, Star Crossed Lovers*.

Information on the New Harmonies exhibit coming in 2010

was passed out on Save the Dates cards. This Smithsonian Institution exhibit, made possible by the Missouri Humanities Council, will be on display June 19 through July 31, 2010.

Each card handed out was numbered, and the lucky winner is number 235. Please bring your card in to the Museum to receive your complete eight volume set of *Lifetimes of Memories*.

## Memberships

Memberships will be available starting January, 2010. The lev-

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Lifetime Benefactor</i>      | \$1000 |
| <i>Annual Sustaining Gold</i>   | \$ 500 |
| <i>Annual Sustaining Silver</i> | \$ 250 |
| <i>Annual Sustaining Bronze</i> | \$ 100 |
| <i>Annual Patron</i>            | \$ 50  |
| <i>Annual Family</i>            | \$ 20  |
| <i>Annual Senior (60+)</i>      | \$ 10  |

Each member is entitled to 10% off purchases in the museum gift shop, and will also receive future issues of the *Reflections* newsletters.

In the past, newsletters were sent to everyone on the Museum's contact list. However, with the increased costs of printing and postage, it has become necessary to limit mailings to members only.

Memberships, gift cards and books make great Christmas gifts. To see current inventory of books available in our gift shop, visit our website, [www.barrycomuseum.org](http://www.barrycomuseum.org)

Your interest and support are sincerely appreciated.

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