



BARRY COUNTY REFLECTIONS

A Quarterly Publication of the Barry County Museum

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2007

Treasuring the Past
Embracing the Present
Envisioning the Future

On Display -

Wheaton Centennial Photos

June 27 - July 27

Archives exhibit room

Featuring a collection of photographs gathered by Ralph and Betty Lamberson for publication in a new book celebrating the Wheaton centennial

Old Soldiers & Settlers Reunion Pictorial Display

July & August

Archives entry hall

Eclectic Collections

August 1 - Sept 4

Collections of cookie jars, Oriental artifacts, Longaberger Baskets and cobalt blue glassware

Display hours:

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday

Fields' Photo Archives

SHO-ME Plaza

802-10 Highway 248

Cassville, MO 65625

417 847-1640

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Star School | 2 |
| Teacher's Contract | 3 |
| Granny Mitchell's Gold Cake | 3 |
| Can You Identify? | 4 |
| Book Signing | 4 |
| Museum Progress | 4 |
| FASCO Industries | 5 |
| Brock Beach Spring | 6 |

Wheaton turns 100 with gala event

Wheaton is gearing up for its rousing centennial celebration. To be held in conjunction with the annual firemen's bar-b-que July 7, the festivities will begin on Thursday, July 5 and will include a fiddler's contest, parade, rides, games, booths, fireworks and a good deal of bluegrass and gospel music. Sonny Burgess will perform after the fireworks display on July 6 and Al Brumley, Jr. will close the ceremonies on Sunday, July 8.

Wheaton undoubtedly owes its existence to the Missouri and North Arkansas railroad (M. & N.A.), which intended to establish a railroad line from Joplin, Missouri to Helena, Arkansas; a distance of some 365 miles. Like many small towns located along early railroad lines, Wheaton was specifically founded because of the railroad. In 1907, the town was platted and lots were sold by the MONARK Townsite Company, a real estate firm operated by Truman Elmore in association with the M. &



Pictured above are Everett, Clyde and Jonathan Reed in front of the Wheaton Depot. Wheaton owes its beginnings to the Missouri & North Arkansas Railroad. Photo courtesy of Rootsweb, submitted by Clydene Reed Bernier

N.A.

The land chosen for the site was situated on the south end of Oliver's Prairie (named for Oliver Lunsford, an early settler of Newton County). By all accounts the town was laid out in the middle of a wheat field; hence the name Wheaton. The MONARK Townsite Company touted this land in their advertisements as fertile and perfect for the growing of fruit, wheat and crops suitable to be hauled to market on the new railway.

ble to be hauled to market on the new railway.

The Wheaton depot, the only existing M. & N.A. depot in Missouri, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed and put into operation in 1908, the last train departed the depot on September 6, 1947.

"Wheaton Echoes", a book commemorating Wheaton's first 100 years, has been compiled by the Wheaton centennial committee. Containing over 500 pages it chronicles the founding of Wheaton and contains many family histories as well as over 700 pictures. Proceeds from sales of the book will go to the "Save the Depot" project.

Copies of "Wheaton Echoes" may be purchased at the Barry County Museum office or Wheaton City Hall. To order by mail contact Ralph or Betty Lamberson, (417) 652-7488.



Looking southwest off of the mill elevator about 1910 - 1912.

Photo from Fields' Photo Archives

Star School—Rural school district #38

Star School, the first public school in Barry County, opened in 1863 as a result of the efforts of two young mothers to educate their children.

Students attended class in a log building located on Flat Creek near Willow Branch, downstream from McDowell. When tax money became available in 1867, a new clapboard schoolhouse was built to replace the original structure. Captain George Stubblefield, U.S. Calvary, was hired as teacher.

A fire destroyed the Star schoolhouse in 1900, but the school was rebuilt. Teacher Leta Thomas of Jenkins (Mrs. Aubrey Chastain) dismissed the last class from the school in 1935. Eli Hoggett, Earl Hoggett and Emory Melton, all in the seventh grade, were the only students at the time of the school's closing. The following year students went to Pokeberry (also known as Willow Branch) and subsequent records show students transported to Verona, Victory or Cassville schools.

In 1972, The Star School was donated to College of the Ozarks by Dr. and Mrs. Donald Sater. Today the school is part of the Ralph Foster Museum on the campus of the College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, MO. In a ceremony held March 28, 1981 former student Emory Melton delivered the dedication address.

The Star 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



The students of Star School, District 38, pose with teacher, Ella Garris, in the school yard in 1910. Front row (l-r): Lydia (Koch) Seitz, Bessie Gates, Blanche Berry, Edna Applegate, Rena Fare, Lottie Shannafelt, Truie Berry, Anna Davenport, Ted Fare, Brady Lawson, Ralph Fare (holding slate), Fred Davenport, Edward Roark, Herbert Carnes, Charlie Ryan, Lahla Wyman, Della Hoenshell, Cyrus Wyman.

Back row (l-r): Pearl Kendall, Lillie Koch, Mary Doty, Ava Roark, Clarissa Fare, Don Davenport, Frank Stubblefield, Goldie Fare, Bill Cochrane, Ben Stubblefield, Ella Garris, teacher.

Photo courtesy Ralph Foster Museum

10 A.M. to 2 P.M.. at the Barry County Museum office in the SHO-ME Plaza on Hwy. 248 in Cassville.

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



Above Star School 1931 Front Row: Eli Hoggett, Billy Bush, Carolyn Bush, Emory Melton, Earl Hoggett. Back Row: Mrs. Edna Berry Melton, teacher (now residing in Aurora), Grace Hoggett, Evelyn Bush, Belle Greenway, Edna Greenway, Lynn Stubblefield, Jack Eubanks.

Photo courtesy of Ralph Foster Museum

Left Former student Emory Melton in front of the refurbished Star School at College of the Ozarks in 2000.

Photo courtesy of Jean Melton

Just for Fun - Teacher's contract

The following contract was given to the Museum by Fran Bolton who had received it from Mildred Wilson. Miss Wilson began teaching in rural schools in the 1940's. Initially she taught in the traditional one-room school. Later she was joined by her sister, Wanda Lee, teaching in two-room schools. During her 33 years in education Miss Wilson taught at Clay Hill, Mountain Home (Stone County), eight years at Cross Hollow, eight years at Jenkins, Southwest and ended her tenure in 1977 at Exeter.

TEACHERS CONTRACT 1923

This is an agreement between Miss _____, teacher, and the Board of Education of the _____ School, whereby Miss _____ agrees to teach for a period of eight months, beginning Sept. 1, 1923. The Board of Education agrees to pay Miss _____ the sum of (\$75) per month.

Miss _____ agrees:

1. Not to get married. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher marries.

2. Not to keep company with men.

3. To be home between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. unless in attendance at a school function.

4. Not to loiter downtown in ice cream stores.

5. Not to leave town at any time without the permission of the chairman of the Board of Trustees.

6. Not to smoke cigarettes. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found smoking.

7. Not to drink beer, wine or whiskey. This contract

becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found drinking beer, wine, or whiskey.

8. Not to ride in a carriage or automobile with any man except her brother or father.

9. Not to dress in bright colors.

10. Not to dye her hair.

11. To wear at least two petticoats.

12. Not to wear dresses more than two inches above the ankles.

13. To keep the schoolroom clean and to sweep the classroom floor at least once daily.

Granny Mitchell's Gold Cake

The following recipe was submitted by Linda Mitchell with the following information provided: Bessie Prudence Webb was born December 31, 1895 at Pea Ridge, Arkansas; the daughter of Tolbert F. Webb and Ada Patterson Webb. Bessie had ten brothers and one sister. She married James Walter Mitchell on September 27, 1914. They had two boys and three girls as well as ten grandchildren. Granny was well known as a very good cook. Everyone would try to make it to Granny's house for dinner because they knew they would be welcome and get a great meal and a piece of gold cake hot out of the oven. Jim passed away September 5, 1983 and Bess February 27, 1991.

This information is from *A Tribute to Our Ancestors Cookbook*, compiled by Barry County

Genealogical and Historical Society.

Copies of the cookbook may be purchased at the Barry County Museum Office located in the SHO-ME Plaza on Hwy. 248

If you have an old Barry County family recipe you would like featured in the newsletter please call the office at (417) 847-1640.

Granny Mitchell's Gold Cake

- 5 eggs
- 2 c sugar
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 3 c flour
- 1 tsp soda
- 1 c Crisco
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 c milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

Beat egg whites, set aside.
Mix remaining ingredients.
Fold in egg whites.
Bake at 350 degrees until toothpick inserted is clean, approximately 35 minutes



Above Jim and Bess Mitchell 60th wedding anniversary, 1974.

Below Jim and Bess "courting days" in 1914.



Can you identify?

During recent renovation of the former Otasco building on the southwest corner of the square some interesting items were discovered under the flooring of the old structure. Among them were several old glass medicine bottles with ceramic stoppers, an old Ford kerosene lamp, a mailing tube marked Ayers Chevrolet, Cassville Missouri and a most unusual cross. The entire construction of the cross is 2'6" tall. The metal portion measures 1'6" tall and 1' across. It appears to be forged metal. The base portion, standing 1', is made of wood that appears to have been painted gold at one time although predominately black now.

regarding Ayers Chevrolet or possible information as to the origin or significance of the cross please contact Barry County Museum (417) 847-1640.



The kerosene lamp was used on Model T Fords, most likely a tail light or side light. The renovated building previously housed Thomas Mitchell Motors. Thomas Mitchell was father of Cassville resident Mary Beck.
Barry County Museum Photo



The cross was also uncovered during the renovation of the former Otasco building. To date no origin or association has been documented.
Barry County Museum Photo

Book Signing

A book signing featuring local authors was held at Books & More, 83 South Main on May 12, 2007. The event, hosted by Litho Printers, featured books by seven local authors; Thad Carter, *Tracking the Past*; Rex Jackson, *Notable People and Places*; Karen Fulp, *Flyin' Farmer*; Tony Stephenson, *History of the Ozarks*; Tom Koob, *History of Fishing on Table Rock* and *Buried by Table Rock*; J.K. Phillips, *Jakie Creek* and Zona Crabtree who has written a series of four books on *Gray Wolf*.

Copies of these books are available for purchase at Books and More as well as the Barry County Museum office in suite 8 of the SHO-ME Plaza on Hwy. 248. The Museum office also offers many books of local historical interest as well as books by other local artists.

"There are a number of accomplished authors in our community and book signings provide an excellent avenue for the public to become acquainted with them" said Kathy White, museum director. Plans are to continue book signings for local authors at the new Barry County Museum.

Museum continues construction

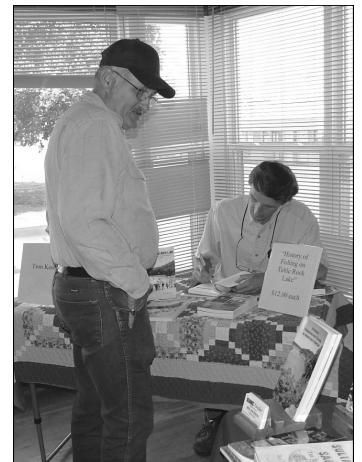
Construction of the Barry County Museum building on Hwy. 112 continues with approximately 65% completion to date. Anticipated occupancy is winter 2007.

The museum will feature a large gift shop and bookstore highlighting publications of historical significance to Barry

County as well as publications by local authors. A 1300 square foot meeting room that can accommodate workshops, class reunions and other sizeable gatherings is included. In addition to several display rooms there will be a loom room housing a functioning antique loom loaned to the museum by Mrs. Bill

Marbut, a photo lab room displaying the equipment used by Fields' Photo during their over 40 years of business and a theater for small groups

While some historical displays will be permanent, plans are to have rotating exhibits and seasonal showings.



Tom Koob of Shell Knob autographs a copy of his book, *"Buried by Table Rock"* for patron Carroll Ledenham of Exeter.

Barry County Museum Photo

Featuring FASCO Industries

Thirty-three years ago on a 44 acre site where cattle formerly grazed a ground-breaking ceremony was held for Cassville's newest employer, FASCO industries.

The groundbreaking event was the culmination of a six month courtship of FASCO by the Industrial Development Corporation, Chamber of Commerce and City of Cassville. Cassville had been in direct competition with West Plains for consideration of the motors and blowers operation. The IDC and Chamber of Commerce initiated a monumental campaign gathering applications and staging interviews to show the availability of a labor work force. Over 1,400 individuals showed interest in employment with the proposed company.

Hosted by master of ceremonies and Chamber of Commerce president Bob Mitchell, the groundbreaking activities began with a concert by the CHS stage band. Speakers were Bill Wiley, IDC chairman, Mayor Bill LeCompte and State Senator Emory Melton.

In summer of 1975 the plant began operations with the first shipment made on July 3. One year later a major addition was added for warehousing distributor motors.

The local manufacturing plant has weathered five owners. F.A. Smith Mfg. Company (FASCO) opened their doors for business in 1911 in Rochester, NY. The company produced after-market "add-on" parts for horseless carriages. Dome lights and flower vases were just two of the many prod-



Ground Breaking Ceremony

Photo courtesy of Cassville Democrat

ucts the fledgling company manufactured. When car makers began to produce many of the accessories themselves F.A. Smith Mfg. Co. diversified into motor manufacturing. They introduced their first electric fan powered by a motor of their own design in 1933. Today FASCO is the world's largest producer of fractional horsepower driven blowers.

In 1980 FASCO Industries was acquired by Hawker Siddeley Group of London. In 1991 BTR acquired the Hawker Siddeley Group and in 1999 BTR merged with Siebe. The new company selected Ivensys as its new name. In December 2002 Ivensys sold FASCO Motors to Techumseh Products.

During its history FASCO Cassville has seen only six managers. Morris Castleber-

ry was followed by Mike McCracken, Jeff VanDixhorn, Steve Chastain and John Hawkins. John Baughan currently holds the management position.

While down from a peak of over 1,000 employees in the early 1970's, FASCO still claims a substantial work force of approximately 650

employees.

Jack Forgey, Operations Leader commented, "I think one of the things that still surprises me is the amount of units the Cassville plant builds. In 2006 we averaged producing 19,500 units per day with over four million units produced that year."



First Shipment

FASCO employees gather around the first shipment of blowers to leave the Cassville facility on July 3, 1975. In the foreground are Pete Weis, Missouri motor division vice-president, H.M. Sylvester, Jr. from FASCO headquarters in Boca Raton, FL and Cassville Manager Morris Castleberry

Photo Courtesy of Cassville Democrat



P.O. Box 338
Cassville, MO 65625

Phone: 417-847-1640
Fax: 417-847-1641
info@barrycomuseum.org
www.barrycomuseum.org

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.

Postage

FIRST CLASS

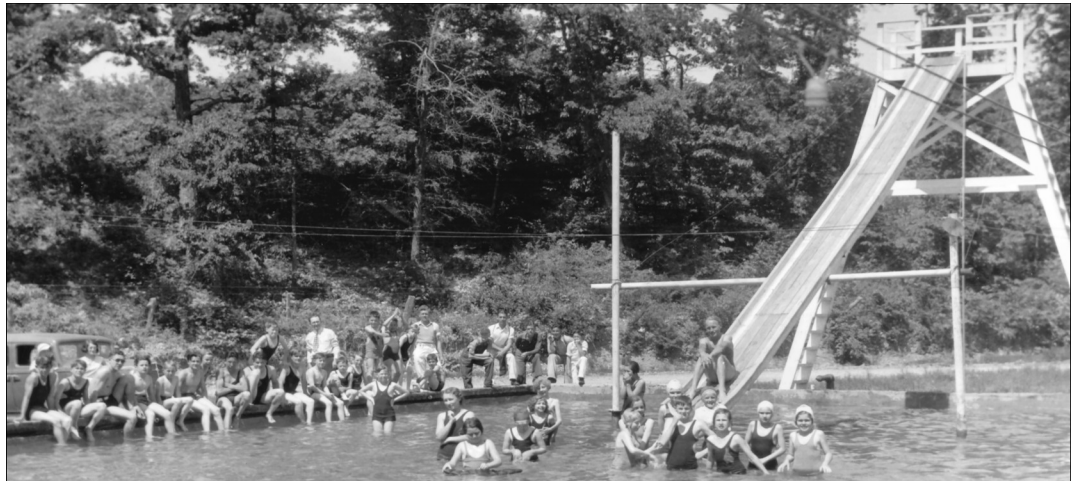


Photo courtesy of Fields' Photo Archives

Kids enjoyed summertime at Brock Beach Spring

Brock Beach Spring, owned by Ollie and Carrie Edmondson Brock, was the scene of much summer fun. Located about half a mile off Hwy. 248 on Mineral Springs Road it featured very cold water that never dried up. There was also a bath house which contained a skating rink (also used as a dance floor), concession area, the E & E Café and a miniature golf course. People came from far and wide to attend parties, especially the annual Halloween parties. Live bands, including the Bob Willis Band, played there.

Son Blaine recalls that one day Ollie was on the side of the hill, fell into a hole and discovered the water. He then began blasting the bluff and the spring was formed. Brock would pump water into citizens' tanks for a quarter. He also ran a pipe from the spring to the road and people would stop by to fill up their cream cans, barrels, or jugs. Fredalene Horner remembers that around 1950 she and her mother would come to town to bring the milk. After they dropped off the milk, they would stop by the Brock Spring on their way home to fill their milk cans so they could slop their hogs.