



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

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Oral History Project going strong

The oral history project continues with 17 stories published to date in the first three volumes. In addition more than 50 interviews are currently in progress.

A book signing for Volume 3 was held Saturday, July 11. Narrators in the third book were: Dorothy Atwell, the late Jewel Bratton, Richard (Sarge) Carney, the late Wilma Hall, Cora Reed, the late Nellie Stever and Charles Weathers.

Volume 4 is tentatively set for release in October, with a book signing scheduled for Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 A.M. until noon.



Cora Reed, one of the featured narrators, attended the book signing for *Lifetimes of Memories, Voices of Barry County* Volume 3.

Barry County Creamery quilt

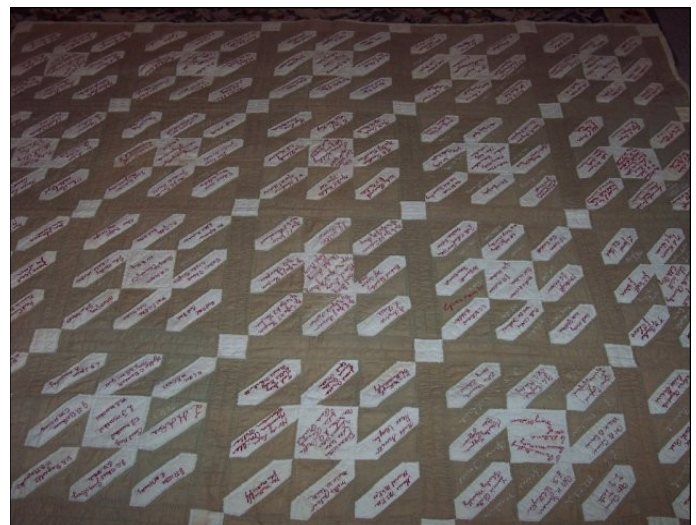
Cheryl Vohtman of Denver, Colorado has made an exciting new donation to the museum. Vohtman came across a quilt made by employees of The Barry County Creamery on E-bay and purchased it thinking it belonged back in Barry County.

Ms. Vohtman's ties to Barry County are through her grandparents, Thomas W. Tucker and Dorothy L. Cameron, who were both born and raised in Barry County but then left in search of jobs, ending up in Texas.

The quilt has close to 500 names on it. Museum patron Bud Lowe found his parents', Harvey and Fannie Lowe, names on the quilt. Harvey

and Fannie were married in 1914. In addition, he found his aunt's and uncle's names, Emmet Nafus and Tensie

Payne, who were married in 1915. From this we surmise that the quilt was made in the 1914/1915 era.



Roach school—Rural school district #103

On November 28, 1890 Jim P. Roach and his wife, Louisa C. Roach, deeded the land to be used for Roach School.

The last school year for Roach was 1944-45 and Miss Jewell Hutchens (Farwell) was the teacher that term. For many years the school also was used for Sunday church and Sunday School services.

Roach schoolhouse is still standing in good repair, located on property owned by the Lighthouse Church on Hwy. 86 east of Hwy. P

The Roach 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, memories or information about any rural school please contact them at the Barry County Museum (417) 847-1640.



Roach school - date and identities unknown
The above photo was provided by Jewell Hutchens Farwell. Mrs. Farwell states, "Every year Mr. Vanderpool planted a lot of watermelons in the rich land of the White River Valley. Mr. Vanderpool would load up his wagon with watermelons, bring them to the Roach School, slice them up and serve a watermelon feast. Parents, and anybody that wanted to come, were invited and if they had a nickel or a few pennies or something they gave it to Mr. Vanderpool."

Exquisite Handmade Quilts on Display

The first gallery show held at the new museum features the work of Billie Jean Dart. Mrs. Dart was about 15 years old when she began needlework and was later introduced to quilting by her aunt, Snow Taylor. Each of Billie Jean's quilts is handworked from start to finish; none have been touched by machines. In addition, all of Billie Jean's quilts are large. Since the time king-sized sheets became available that is all she has used.

Mrs. Dart is seldom far from her passion. Her husband and family enjoy music and performing. Billie Jean accompanies her family, sewing basket and needle in tow.

Mrs. Dart's collection is on display July 12, 2008 through September 15, 2008.



Billie Jean Dart proudly displaying two of her handmade quilts. The pattern of the quilt to the left of Mrs. Dart is called The Album and the quilt to her right is The Diamond Star. These quilts, along with 28 others, are on display throughout the museum.

Barry County Museum Photo

Volunteer appreciation luncheon Celebrate

On August 14, 2008 employees at the museum showed their appreciation to the volunteers by honoring and serving them at a luncheon.

Honored guests included Phyllis and Truman Baker, Fran and Ted Bolton, Peggy and Buck Calton, Doris and Carrol Hayes, Fredalene Horner, Irene Horner, Nancy and Harvey Stockton and Marge and Robert Ryder. Penny and Phil Bailey were unable to attend.

Volunteers provide invaluable service at the museum guiding tours, answering questions, staffing the gift shop and greeting guests.



It's been a busy year at the museum since opening the doors in October of 2007. We are thrilled with the attendance and positive comments we have received.

Recently gallery shows have been reinstated, and the popular pictorial displays once featured in the hall of the Sho-Me plaza will soon return.

Please join us for a one year celebration held in conjunction with the book signing for Volume 4 of *Lifetimes of Memories* scheduled for Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 A.M. until noon.

A special heart of the holidays book signing for Volume 5 of *Lifetimes of Memories* will be held in November, 2008.

Featured recipe—Buttermilk Pie

Buttermilk Pie

Rich Pie Crust:

- 1 1/4 Cups Flour
- 1/4 Teaspoon salt
- 1/2 Cup Butter, chilled
And diced
- 1/4 Cup Ice Water

In large bowl, combine flour and salt. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in water a tablespoon at a time until mixture forms a ball. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight. Roll dough out to fit a 9-inch pie plate. Place crust in pie plate and press dough evenly into the bottom .

Filling:

- 2 Cups fresh buttermilk
- 2 Tablespoons Flour
- 1/2 Cup Sugar
- 2 Egg Yolks

1 Tablespoon Lemon Extract

Small Lump Butter

Combine the above ingredients, mix thoroughly. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 400° for 10 minutes; reduce heat to 350° and bake until set, 25 to 30 minutes.

This 1900's recipe belonged to Minnie Sills Brattin, daughter of Rev. J.C. Sills, a pioneer Baptist minister in Barry County. On April 10, 1883 she married Rev. James T. Brattin, another long time Barry County minister. Minnie was born in May 1867 and died January 30, 1945. She was the great grandmother of lifelong Cassville resident, Sue (Hawk) Blythe.

If you have an old Barry County family recipe to share please contact the museum at 417 847-1640.



The James T. Brattin Family
Minnie Laura (Sills) Brattin, Clara Brattin (Henderson), Mayme Brattin (Marbut, Brown) and Rev. James T. Brattin. Clara Henderson was the mother of Wilma Henderson Hawk, the mother of Sue Hawk Blythe.

Photo courtesy of Sue Blythe

Poetry Nook Robyn Cook art exhibit scheduled

I've hopped the freight in all the yards. I've rode through towns galore. But now I've joined a three C Camp, and I hope to bum no more.

Eggs did fly and mush did sink right before my eyes, and a jolly bunch went back to their tents, I knew they were satisfied.

Way down here in these hills a trail whistle I can hear. Girls, they are called taboo, and home is not so near.

But all of us guys are a happy lot, our supervisor treats us fine, and nary a kick will anyone make, we're here to serve our time.

After just months when our time is up it will be coming spring I'll lay a steak against two bits we'll all sign up again.

The above poem was written by Elbert Solomon of Joplin, a cook at CCC Camp Number 1713 at Roaring River. Published first in The Cassville Democrat November 23, 1933, it was republished in the *Through The Years* section November 24, 1993.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a work relief program for young men from unemployed families, established on March 21, 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As part of Roosevelt's New Deal legislation, it was designed to combat unemployment during the Great Depression. The CCC became one of the most popular New Deal programs among the general public and operated in every U.S. State and several territories.

The museum is excited to announce the upcoming art exhibit featuring the work of Pierce City artist, Robyn Cook.

Pencil is the medium of choice for Cook. "While I've tried paints and pastels, I've never been able to achieve the effect that I've wanted; so I use pencil. I have more control over the details. But it's the details that make it such a challenge - the shoelaces, the eyelashes, the look in the eye that bring the subject to life", says Cook. "I usually ask the person who is commissioning the work to send several photos of the subject so I can get a feel for the personality", she explained. "Maybe a crooked smile, a glint in the eye that shows up in one photo that isn't quite captured in another. I might go through the group of shots once or twice. Then I focus on the one that's been commissioned and go from there. I save the eyes for last," she continues, "I love working on the eyes; they're my favorite part of the picture."

One of the great accomplishments is having a piece accepted for display by the prestigious American Academy of Equine Art in Kentucky. "They accepted only 43 of 700 entries, and mine was one of them," Cook said.

Cook states, "I want to do more cowboy or western art and illustrations - the battered hats, the worn chaps. I like the rustic reality of working men and working horses. They tell their own story. That's life."

Cook's work will be on display from September 15 through November 10.



The Bull Rider, above, and Gabe, below are just two of the many beautiful works created by local artist Robyn Cook.



Featuring House Handle Company

In 1929 William (Bill) House began the business known today as House Handle Company. Initially Bill would purchase handles from three area handle manufacturers and would peddle them out of his truck. "In 1929 my dad was 18 years old" says Ken House, Bill's son and successor. "That was not a good year to get a job or anything else, so he made a job by peddling handles." In 1940 Bill bought some machinery that he rented to other mills. In turn they promised to make the handles for him to sell. Bill sold handles until his retirement in 1976.

When Kenny joined his father in 1957 he wasn't as fond of the traveling aspect of the job and started up the production end of the business.

House Handle Company manufacturing began with two old lathes Kenny purchased from a farmer south of Eagle Rock in 1963. Before the farmer would sell the lathes he made Kenny take them apart and get everything functioning again. The machines had been sitting out in the elements ignored and rusting. It took Kenny three days to get them up and running. One of those lathes is dated 1865. "I'll never part with that one," Ken says of the Civil War era lathe.

The first location for production was adjacent to Surplus City on Business 37 north of Cassville.

While the business offers the same basic product line, the market has expanded, declares Chris House, third generation owner/operator who has joined his father. In 1989-1990 the business outgrew it's original location and moved to a 35-acre site on Highway 86 between Cassville and Exeter.

The business currently maintains a staff of around 10 - 15 employees and has expanded production by purchasing lathes from two other companies that have gone out of business, bringing the number of lathes current-



House Handle Company

Photo courtesy of House Handle Company

ly in use to 15.

Primary sales are to farm and hardware stores, though walk-in sales to individuals and internet sales are available. "A lot of people think what we do here is manufacture handles for cabinets and drawers," Chris states.

Chris explained that Hickory is used for striking tools and the longest length for Hickory handles is 3 feet. Handles over 3 feet, agricultural tools (shovels, etc.) are made using Ash, which is more flexible.

The wood arrives in lengths and is sent to a saw to cut the proper width. From there the piece is sent to a lathe to form the correct configuration. The next step taken is to cut the handle to the proper length, and then back to a lathe. After that the handle is sanded and lacquered.

Out of the approximately one million handles made a year the number one product is the sledge handle because it can be used for three different tools. Not only does it fit a sledgehammer, but it also can be used for splitting mauls and railroad spike drivers.

Another popular item is the tomahawk. The company sells approximately 75,000 tomahawk handles a year. In tomahawk throwing the object is to split the handle down the middle, so there is a constant need for more handles.

A large quantity of shavings is created during the process of manufacturing these handles, and Chris states they are used a lot in landscaping projects. Chris says the shavings are free to the public, and for a \$5.00 fee they will load them on the truck for

you.

House Handle Company is open Monday - Friday from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. While you can find Kenny there at 5:00 most mornings in the finishing room, he does also find more time these days for the golf course now that Chris oversees the day-to-day operation of running the business.

For additional information about House Handle Company and their products visit www.househandle.com.



Chris House operating the sledge lathe

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.

Reunions and fond memories shared at museum



Jack Towe from Oregon was visiting relatives in Cassville recently when he heard about the book signing to be held at the museum July 12. When Towe learned that his one time teacher, Margaret Hancock Montgomery, would be attending he extended his visit and reunited with his 8th grade teacher.

Mrs. Montgomery is currently penning a book of fic-

Barry County Museum

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

**P.O. Box 338
 Cassville, MO 65625**

tional short stories based on life in the Ozarks. She will hold a book signing at the museum in the future.

Laverne Black of Cassville, Bill Black of Carbondale, KS and Randall Black of Fruitland, ID recently toured the museum and inspected the renovation taking place on the Black School. The three brothers, descendants of the family that originally donated the land for the school, told stories of their school days and shared how the school house had been furnished.

