

# NEWSLETTER

## June 2016

Volume 10 Issue 2

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### President's Corner

Sheila Craig

Many activities are keeping the core group of PHS volunteers busy this summer including opening the Caboose for visitors, planning for the County Fair booth in the O'Hara School, selling raffle tickets, etc.

Work continues to secure the former Dairy & Farm Building for a permanent home for PHS. The project has taken much longer than anticipated. Currently the environmental cleanup work is in process and needs to be completed by Dairy & Farm before the property will be purchased by the Preston City Council. An open house was held during Trout Days to show the public the building interior and the plans being made.

The work on having DNR signage to tell the railroad history of the area at Isnours is continuing with Jon De Vries and Bob Maust assisting with the information. DNR staff also interviewed Donna Ibach who lived at the home when the station was in operation. We'll let you know when the signs are in place.

### PHS Summer/Fall Schedule

Jeanette Schmidt

June 18 - Open 11-2 Father's Day and other days as volunteers are available

July 19-24 - Fillmore County Fair - O'Hara School Open: Tuesday 5-9; Wednesday - Saturday 1 - 9; Sunday - 1-5.

August 11 - Downtown Preston, Family Fun Night 5-8

September 17 - Taste of the Trail - Caboose & Elevator open

October 22 - Fall Expo at Middle School Gym

### It's Raffle Time

Sheila Craig

Help out our Historical Society fundraising activity and purchase a book or raffle tickets today. A book is only \$10 for 10 tickets. We again have great prizes. Contact Sheila at [smeercraig@gmail.com](mailto:smeercraig@gmail.com) or 507.273.1481 to purchase your book... OR if you can help us sell tickets that would be much appreciated!

For each ticket sold Dan Christianson, F & M Community Bank is again donating \$1 for each ticket sold up to \$1000. We have 1000 tickets to sell. We thank Dan for his gracious support of the Preston Historical Society.

### Caboose

Norma Vogt

Assistance is needed in order to have the caboose open this summer! Volunteers can work any Saturday or Sunday for any length shift. Contact Norma Vogt at [nvogt@gmail.com](mailto:nvogt@gmail.com) or at 765.2276 to arrange for a key and information about working. It's easy as there is a handout to offer visitors and signs to put out to tell visitors that you are OPEN!

## **Need A Gift?**

There are still available History of Preston Books - \$20; Elevator Birdhouse - \$20; and Red Wing crocks with "old courthouse" picture on one side and 2005 sesquicentennial logo on the other side - \$30.

## **Membership**

### **Membership Committee**

Welcome new lifetime business member – Preston Area Chamber of Commerce! We currently have a membership challenge – each member is to encourage one other person or business to join the Preston Historical Society.

For those of you on yearly memberships – you will soon be receiving your letter of renewal for the 2016-2017 year.

## **Archiving**

### **Linda Wolfe**

As a new member of PHS I thought I would volunteer to help archive the collections that have been gathered and are stored in 5 different locations. Dick Petsch, John Carlin and I went through the downtown storage room last year. We found old business signs and materials, as well as pictures and artifacts from past residents and businesses in Preston.

Of course one of the big tourist interests is the caboose and elevator at the trailhead. In archiving the elevator we found a fanning mill, "Clipper". I have since learned the following information: About 1860 fanning mills took over for threshing machines. Fanning mills removed straw, chaff, stones, dirt and dust, weed seeds and light immature seeds from wheat, oats, rye, barley and other grains. The mill has a fan which moves air upward through the screens to float off the light straw, chaff and dust. The mills were a great technical advance over winnowing, the

hand-process of pouring grain from one container to another in a breeze to blow away the light material. Clipper seed and grain cleaners have been manufactured by the A.T. Ferrell Company, Inc. since 1869. Most farms had their own Clipper.

There is an informational sheet in the display case at the elevator site. When the outer doors of the elevator are open the fanning mill is visible. Stop by and have a look.

## **Parade Entry**

We have a great parade entry – the 'mini' elevator. We again included it in the Trout Days Parade. Bob Maust used his pick-up and wagon and pulled the elevator in the parade. Elaine Maust and Rosalie Bjorkman rode the float and tossed candy to the crowd. THANKS.

If anyone has a truck to pull the float in a neighboring parade, we would really like to include it. If you can help, please let one of the officers know of your availability.

## **Days I Remember**

### **Bob Maust**

*This is the fourth installment of this history trip around Preston. The story continues:*

Continuing on if we come across from Al Larson's Plumbing Shop to the building now owned by Bob Bakke Construction which was a storage facility for J.F. Anderson Lumber Co. which we will talk about as we go back to the east side of St. Paul Street. To the west there were a couple residence, the far west one being the Fillmore County Courthouse moved there from Carimona. The P.O.P. gas station was on the corner and was later sold to Roger Halweg and then to Bob Conlan, and to Les Hellickson. The original P.O.P. was operated by the Berry

Family. It has been closed now for many years.

Continuing up St. Paul Street from the P.O.P. was J.F. Anderson Lumber Co. operated by Glen Gleason and later by Roger Halweg with Don Duxbury being his assistant which is now K.F.I.L. Radio Station office. On the same block to the east of what is now the radio station was the Preston Bowling Alley operated by the Chilson Family with different young boys being hired to set the pins for the bowlers. There was also a lunch counter there. They sold the building to Ray Eischen where he operated a Case farm machinery dealership and stored the Preston school buses which he operated. It later became a garage for Ristau Milk Haulers. This site has been cleared today. There is a residential home on the N.E. corner of that block today which has been there for 150 years.

Across the street on the corner was the Art Riehl residence where Art & Carolyn Riehl lived. Carolyn was the owner of Carolyn's Dress Shop. The creamery purchased the property and drilled another well on the property to supply water for the dairy plant. It is a self-flowing artesian well. The original creamery building was put there in 1924 and was added on to numerous times over the years.

The Preston Creamery Produce was first housed in the building right beside the creamery building. Later this was converted into a Caysine Drying Plant. This product was used to make paint by a company in the state of New York. Later the site was cleared and the new milk drying plant was built there in the 1950's which is now the location of the Foremost milk drying plant.

On the south west corner of that block was Ross Plumbing and Heating. This site was

later sold to the creamery and became the Preston Creamery Produce where they bought eggs and sold all kinds of farm products. Later this became storage and offices for the creamery itself and the feed business became Preston Dairy & Farm down by the railroad tracks.

Turning the corner and going north on the west side of St. Paul Street was the Preston Dry Cleaner that would wash, clean and press your clothes for you. Next to the dry cleaners going north was a vacant lot. Next to that was Mrs. Olson's Children's Shop and beside that was Schibursky's Shoe Store. Art Schibursky also had a shoe repair business in the back of the store.

Across the alley was Jim & Joe's Tavern. They later sold the business and opened Jim & Joe's Tavern in Rochester. It has had many owners over the years. Next to Jim & Joe's was Bob Marzolf's Tavern. Later the two businesses became Chic's Pizza. Jerry Chiglo started the business and was later operated by Ib Gatzke. It is now vacant.

Continuing on we come to the Preston Bakery operated by Willet & Edith Stoskopf. It always smelled very good walking by the bakery. In the years since the bakery it was Millie Corson's Shop and is now the fishing tackle and Kayak & Canoe rental shop. Next to this shop is where Lisa's Klip & Kurl Beauty Shop is now, run by Lisa Pickett and was Andy Chilson's little coffee restaurant.

On the corner was the Jack Sprat grocery store operated by Merlin Klein and next to it was Reed's Five and Dime Store later owned by Paul Burges and now the two stores are owned by the Uncommon Store business. Next was Porter Remington's Drug Store. There was an ice cream soda fountain where you could buy a small malt

for 15 cents and a large one for a quarter. They also sold cards and gifts along with the pharmacy. This now houses Juliaclare Repeat Boutique.

Barlow's women's attire shop operated by Bill Barlow and his son & wife, who was the former Lois Tessum, was next. Miss Ibach worked for them and later married Howard Gartner. Next to Barlow's was the Red Owl Store operated by Russ & Lois Sutton and by that was Reid's Grocery Store which later became Byron Ingvalson's Grocery store. Over time it was the Sears Catalog facility and the insurance for the bank and is now the Pioneer Abstract & Title Office. Today the business which was the Red Owl and the grocery store are one as the Weber & Judd Drug Store.

Then we come to the Farmers & Merchants Bank with Wils Garret as President and where Al Christianson started his career in banking working for Wils. It later became Dr. Sauer's office and then Tom Hagen's Chiropractic Clinic and it is now the Arndt Chiropractic Clinic. Next to the bank was Jake Kumm's Barber Shop and to the east of it was the Masonic Lodge Hall. In the basement of the Masonic Lodge Hall was the beauty shop operated by Lillian Benson and across the hall was offices of the County Ag Department. Next door to the Masonic Building was the Johnson Insurance Agency which is now a woodworking shop. Over the years there have been many businesses in the building including the Ramsey Barber Shop.

Erv Harm had the restaurant business on the corner called Sip & Nibble and later this building got sold to Hampel Plumbing & Heating and is now Sandy's Hair To Dye For operated by Sally Gibson. Behind Sip & Nibble next to the alley was the Jimmy Drury residence which later became the

Preston Municipal Liquor Store and which is now Pam Ristau's Accounting Office.  
*To be continued...*

### **2016 Raffle Prizes**

3-Night Downtown St. Paul Lodging in Historic House Apartment – John & Helen Buche (\$375)  
Nike Golf Driver – Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$300)  
Handmade Pieced Holiday Quilt – Quip & Sew Quilters (\$200)  
Nike Golf Bag – Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$130)  
Metal Trout Sculpture – John Carlin (\$75)  
2 Commonwealth Theatre Tickets – KFIL (\$70)  
2 Gift Certificates – Preston Motor Mart – Rich Irish, S & A Petroleum (\$50 each)  
Gift Certificate – Cabelas – anonymous donor (\$50)  
Gift Certificate – Branding Iron (\$50)  
Gift Certificate – NAPA Preston & Root River Hardware (\$50)  
Gift Certificate – Sweet Stop & Sandwich Shoppe (\$50)  
Titliest ProV Golf Balls – Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$45)  
Afghan – Ila Olstad (\$40)  
MN Gopher Tied Fleece Blanket – Sheila Craig (\$40)  
Jailhouse Stories book & 2 coffee mugs – JailHouse Historic Inn, Innkeepers, Jeanne & Marc Sather (\$35)  
Holiday Table Runner – Ann Sparks (\$30)  
Viking Cap – Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$25)  
2 Pork Gift Certificates good at Harmony, Preston or Rushford Foods – Gulbranson Farms (\$25 each)  
Gift Certificate - The Club (\$25)  
Red Plaid Tied Fleece Blanket – Linda Wolfe (\$25)

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### **Preston Historical Society Officers**

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