



Preston Historical Society

Post Office Box 138
136 Saint Anthony Street
Preston, Minnesota 55965

A 501C/3 Non-Profit Corporation

NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2012

Volume 6, Issue 3

PAST TIME

By: Richard G. Petsch, President

Greetings to all. I find this to be a very strange year so far in terms of meteorological history. An early heat wave in March, after hardly a winter. A cool spring, early planting, with a very hot spring and summer and a long stretch with no rain. The fall is yet to be written. We do live in Minnesota...enough said.

On the history side, I have been able to participate in a few noteworthy events. First, June 16 was the dedication service for the veterans of the War Of 1812 of which 13 are buried in Fillmore County. This year is also the bicentennial of that war. The event took place at the Lenora church and at the Lenora cemetery where two veterans are buried. It was put on by various Fillmore County Service organizations and the Fillmore County History Center. Also included, were drum and fife from Fillmore Central High School. It was a very moving experience.

Second, O'Hara School was rededicated on Wednesday July 25, during the Fillmore County Fair. I gave a short speech followed by an open house and refreshments and bars. Between 2011 and 2012 the O'Hara school has gone through extensive updating including interior and exterior painting, 5 new windows, new steps and a new "O'HARA SCHOOL" sign. Added this summer, are the Preston High School class pictures from 1911 through 1959, which were a big hit during the fair.

Third, I had the opportunity on August 2 to travel to Charles City, Iowa for the Cedar Valley Engine Club show. This was my second visit to this show. Now, I have written about this show in a previous article. It is worth mentioning again because it not a history society or group as such, but a group of people dedicated to preserving old gasoline and steam powered engines of all sizes. In that process, The Cedar Valley Engine Club has in their collection an old store complete with old fixtures and merchandise on the shelves.....not for sale....of course, and two restored gas pumps outside. There is a old farm house behind the store waiting to be restored. A restored barn near the store contains all sorts of early

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Fall Event – Saturday, October 27

The Preston Historical Society will hold a
Fall Event and Open House
at the O'Hara Schoolhouse
Saturday, October 27 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Stop by for a visit and view the Preston High School Senior pictures from 1911 – 1959. Also see all of the new restoration activities that have taken place over the past year. Refreshments will be served.

Also the Society is looking for an old teacher's chair, swivel with arms. If you might have one to donate, or know of the location of one, please contact one of the officers listed in the "officer contact information" within this newsletter.

farming items, some of which I have never seen before. One huge building houses two massive steam enginesonly one operates. This one engine was used at the ALLIS CHALMERS assembly plant as an air compressor to supply air for all the air tools used in the plant up until the late 1960's. There is a large display of tractors including a group of at least three huge steam tractors actually threshing. I could write a lot more about this event, but my point is history is preserved in many places outside of museums and Historical Societies. I would encourage anyone who can to visit the Cedar Valley Engine Club show held the first weekend of August. I think you would find it a very enjoyable and historical trip.

The Preston Historical Society meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM. We would love to have you join us!

Crock Images

By: Sheila Craig

Following is the list of images and the year that they were on the Red Wing crocks:

- 2003 1902 Milwaukee Elevator
- 2004 Chicago, Milwaukee, St Paul Depot
- 2005 "Old" Courthouse
- 2006 Preston Brewery
- 2007 JailHouse Inn
- 2008 City Hall & Library
- 2009 WW I Memorial
- 2010 Milwaukee Road Boxcar
- 2011 Preston Public School
- 2012 1874 Map of Preston

A few crocks from previous years are available. Also if you are ever interested in selling any of your numbered crocks or a whole set, please let the Society know, as an 'interest' list is being maintained.

A note of trivia: 67 people have a complete set of all 10 crocks.



Membership

To anyone reading a copy of this newsletter – YOU are invited to become a member of the Preston Historical Society. To those who are already a member, invite a friend. Membership is only \$20 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a family. Lifetime membership is \$100. Business memberships are also welcome: \$50 per year or \$150 for a Lifetime membership. Memberships can be sent to: Preston Historical Society, Box 138, Preston MN 55965. **WON'T YOU JOIN US TODAY!** Contributions are also welcome – remember the Society is a 501C3 tax deductible organization.

Caboose Update

By: Robert Maust

They will start sandblasting the caboose on September 24th. Weather permitting the caboose should be sandblasted, primed and painted in the coming week. We will then install 6 new windows which Chris Hershberger has made. The caboose will then be moved to its new home by the box car at the Milwaukee elevator location. We hope to have all of this completed by the end of October. The start of the refurbishing of the inside of the caboose will begin next year.

A Bit of the Past

By: Richard Hovelson

This story is about me and my jobs I worked at and some of the amusing incidents.

I was Santa for many years. One year at the Town Hall my sister and nieces came to see Santa. The oldest one came and set on my lap with a list for Christmas. The youngest took one look and wanted nothing to do with that bearded man. My sister and niece busted out laughing. Then there was the little guy setting on my lap telling me what he wanted and quick as a wink he grabbed my whiskers and off came the white beard. My black beard popped out and his eyes got as big as saucers.

I drove bus and one time on the way home with my kindergarten kids, one little girl said "I have to go to the potty." I said I could not stop in the middle of the road. About then down the road was a place where one little one lived. I turned the bus close to the house. I stopped and opened the door and all the little girls ran off and into the house. The lady and her daughter came out laughing at what the girls had done.

Then there was the Community Ed Trip I made. One was a fall leaf trip. We left Preston after 2 other buses got here. We went to the Rochester Airport for Brunch. We had over 100 senior citizens in the group. When we were at the Airport Café, a lady came over and remarked, I think it is so nice for you people to take them out for lunch. She was referring to people at the Rochester State Hospital. The tour Director was amused, but didn't know who to tell as she didn't know anybody. I said I knew a lot of them so I told the comment. We all had a good laugh.

We headed for Red Wing Pottery Show and other sights. Later we headed down the River Road to see sights. Somebody wanted

afternoon coffee and asked if I knew a place that was large enough for a group. South of Wabasha there was a place. They showed cattle. I tried to call several times, but no luck. We arrived. They lived over the restaurant. Kids were on the deck. They said mom, there is a whole busload of people. Mom, there are 2 busloads of people. Mom, there are 3 busloads of people here! The Senior Citizens waited on people and then the lady ran the till. She finally came to the table where the bus drivers were. She said she wished we had called. I said we had, but she should give a way to call because I understand there are 3 or 4 trips yet this fall.

I made several trips to the Cattle Congress in Waterloo, Iowa. Senior citizens liked it as there was bingo with large Jackpots. I would wander the displays. One trip coming home I got in the wrong lane. I got out of the traffic and somebody said I was in the blacky district of Waterloo. I found a church parking lot and got turned around.

This is a collection of incidents I can recall.

Preston Historical Society Officers

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Preston Historical Society Announces Raffle Winners

By: Sheila Craig

The Preston Historical Society conducted the drawing for the winners of the recent raffle fundraiser at their August Society meeting. Proceeds from the raffle will be used for the elevator site restoration project.

The Society would again like to thank F & M Community Bank for providing matching funds of \$1000 (a dollar for each ticket sold). Preston businesses, listed below, were also gracious to provide the many prizes.

Nike Driver, Golf Balls, Hat - Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$350 value), Brenda Reicks, Preston
One Night Lodging at the JailHouse Historic Inn, Innkeepers, Jeanne and Marc Sather, (\$180 value), Sandy Schmidt, Preston

“Commemorative Anniversary Coin” – F & M Community Bank, (\$50 value), Ron Junge, Fountain

Titleist Pro VI Golf Hat & Golf Balls – Greg & Bonnie Davids, (\$50 value), Pete Bartholomew
Gift Certificate – Sweet Stop & Sandwich Shoppe (\$50 value), Rita Wilson, Preston

Wilson Putter & Golf Balls – Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$50 value), MariLyn Bakke, Preston
Savings Bond – Gehling Auction (\$50 value), Bill Buckley, Austin

Titleist ProVI Golf Balls– Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$48 value), Jon DeVries, Preston

Handmade Hardanger Doily – Sheila Craig (\$30 value), Kelly Dougherty, Preston

Handcrafted Wooden Truck– Richard Hovelson (\$25 value), Kristina Kohn, Spring Valley
Cash – Bluff Country Septic – Norm Craig (\$25 value), Flora Grabau, Preston

Set of 3 Markum Hair Care products – Lisa’s Klip N Kurl (\$25 value), Eric Scheevel, Preston

Nike Golf Hat – Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$25 value), Karla Erickson, Chatfield

Pork Gift Certificate good at Harmony, Preston or Rushford Foods – Gulbranson Farms (\$25 value), Sharyol, O’Connor, Preston

Gift Certificate – Chics (\$25 value), Geraldine Daley, Preston

Gift Certificate – Preston Floral (\$20 value), Pat Scheevel, Preston

”Jailhouse Stories” by Neil Haugerud – JailHouse Historic Inn, Innkeepers, Jeanne and Marc Sather (\$17 value), Kathy Kumpf, Chatfield

Chef’s Apron of fishing fabric – Sheila Craig (\$12 value), Tara Craig, Houston

2 Gift Certificates – Preston Apple & Berry Farm (each\$10 value), Denise Paulson, Preston and Wyatt Seabloom, Preston.

***Congratulations to the winners
and thank you for your support!***