



# 123 Years of the Infamous Coffey County Fair

During the ending of July Shirley Gorge and Jessi Cherry created a wonderful display about the 123 years of the Coffey County Fair.

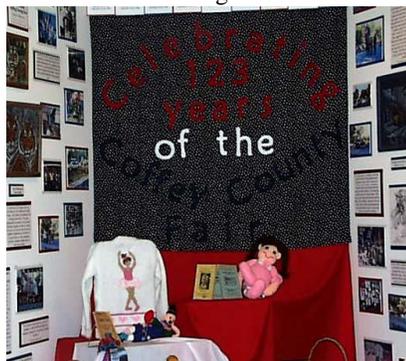
The Coffey County Fair holds the record of being the longest consecutively held fair in Kansas. What an honor.

The fair exhibit displays many pictures and interesting facts of fairs gone by.

The Coffey County Fair display also shows art work by Janet Smith; cross stitched, knitted, and crocheted items by Shirley Gorge; needle work and a woven basket created by Jerry Hoyt; and much, much more.

This nice exhibit displays programs from the Fair that date back to 1882.

Did you know that a wedding was held in front



of the Grandstand bleachers? The committee had a sign up sheet. The committee would select a potential bride and groom from that list of those who volunteered. The couple would be notified, and the names would remain a

secret to the community until the day of the wedding. The local businesses and people would donate their time and money to giving the lucky couple a beautiful wedding.

Another interesting fact is that the school children from all of Coffey County would attend a School Day at the Fair. At that time the fair was in September or October. Their admission was paid for by the school for the day. The children would participate in activities, games, and watch programs. Later the Coffey County fair was moved to August due to reoccurring weather conditions.

We encourage everyone to come and enjoy this new display!

## Straw Art has Left the Building

The straw art has left after its four month stay in the Cochran room.

We had a wonderful response to the straw art exhibit. The museum had 1,600 visitors during the months of May through August that came to see these beautiful works.

Shirley Gorge and Pat Price spent countless hours, delicately, putting the dolls back in the Cochran Addition. We would like to thank everyone for coming to visit the art work that we had the privilege to host.

### Board Members

<i>Bill Freeman</i>	<i>Jo Ann Phillips</i>
<i>Opal Kunkel</i>	<i>Kent Hoyt</i>
<i>Mona Veteto</i>	<i>Kelly Hull</i>
<i>Duane Fitch</i>	

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### Employees

<i>*Deborah Kennamore, Director</i>	<i>*Pat Price, Genealogy</i>
<i>*Shirley Gorge, Curator and Education Curator</i>	<i>*Jean Beaty, Front Office</i>
<i>*Glenn Young, Experience Works</i>	<i>*Jessi Cherry, Student Worker</i>

## Introducing Jessi Cherry

Hello, all, I am Jessi Cherry. I am currently a senior at Burlington High School. My parents are Jacob and Brenda Cherry. My older brother Nick Cherry (21) is attending Emporia State University, and living with his fiancée Victoria Partridge.

This is my fourth month of employment here at the Coffey County Historical Museum. This year I am enrolled in the Student-to-Careers program, with my working hours being from one to five.

My extracurricular activities consist of Drama, Drama, and more Drama. I have been the president of Drama Club for three years. Also I recently obtained the position of Eastern Kansas Thespian Representative, I am so honored to have this title. My duties in

this position consist of : announcing each night at the State Thespian Conference (held in Emporia, KS at ESU, January 8-10, 2004) and organizing the conference for the next three months.

My other fad is collecting owls. There is just something about those birds of prey.

After High School I will be moving to Anchorage, Alaska. In the fall of 2004 I will be attending the University of Alaska, Anchorage. My intentions are to obtain a happy life and to experience all that is within my reach.

Working at the Museum is an honor. It has made me realize that juggling



work and school can be challenge. I get pleasure from every aspect of my job. The most enjoyable part is working with so many diverse personalities. I have learned so many important aspects that pertain to obtaining a job in the future.

## Caught Being Good?



Have you been really good the past few times that you visited the museum? Well, Great!

We have displayed a new "Caught Being Good" token sign located underneath the map in the front entrance which informs all of our visitors of the new tokens.

The museum is now introducing these beautiful tokens that are only given to the children who follow the museum rules and are on their best

behavior.

These tokens are redeemable for 50 cents at the Coffey County Museum's Gift Shop which has been recently stocked with various kinds of candy, toys, stickers, temporary tattoos, games, jumping beans, straws, charms, stationary, puzzles, and much, much more!

Bring your well-behaved youngsters into the museum for a tour and we may be rewarding them with a token.

## New tower to Protect Schoolhouse Bell

Jim Decker and his crew have created a tower for the Schoolhouse's Bell that had been donated to the Museum from the late Bill and Olive Batdorf of Burlington. The Bell was from District #49 circa 1907.

The newly protected bell is located outside on the walkway directly in front of the one room schoolhouse.

Jim Decker and crew have worked very hard on this project for days. They have created a great addition to the walkway. And have also finished a great form of protection for this antique bell. We appreciate all the work that they put into this nice shelter.



This is the once unfinished awning that was created to protect the schoolhouse bell.

## The History of Veterans Day *By Shirley Gorge*

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On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, Germany called a cease-fire, or armistice, and put an end to World War I. A year later, President Wilson declared November 11 as Armistice Day. Armistice Day was not just celebrated in the United States; it was also celebrated in the United Kingdom, France, and in Canada. Those Countries that signed the armistice believed that



World War I was a “war to end all wars”, and that peace would reign, but this peace would not last.

In September 1939, World War II started when Germany invaded Poland. Following that, in 1950 the United States, along with other United Nations, came to the aid of South Korea and entered into the Korean War.

In 1953, a legislator from Kansas named Ed Rees presented to Congress a bill to change the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The idea came about from a community in Emporia, Kansas, who decided to observe a Veterans’

Day instead of an Armistice Day to honor all of the Soldiers who fought a war from town. In 1954, President Eisenhower, also a native Kansan, signed a bill declaring November 11 as Veterans’ Day. Since that date, the United States has seen more casualties with the war in Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, and numerous military operations. Veterans’ Day has been and will always be a way for every American, young and old, to pay tribute to all of our courageous soldiers who have risked everything for our freedom.

## Kansas Museum Association Annual Meeting *by Deborah Kennamore*

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That is right...one year has passed since the last KMA Annual Meeting. It is being held October 21-24 in Ulysses, Kansas. The theme for this year is “Changing Roles in Changing Times”. This is the 35th Annual Meeting for KMA. The Annual Meeting is an important opportunity to meet colleagues from across the state, gain new perspectives and expand professional skills through varied programs. “Changing Roles in Changing Times” is a theme which challenges all of us to consider different ways of meeting our vital missions and serving our communities and diverse audiences.

The Cimarron cutoff on the Sante Fe trail that passed just east of the current site of Ulysses, running approximately north/south, and crossed the path of modern highway US 160 just east of town following the Cimarron Trail. Wagon Bed Springs, ten miles south of Ulysses, was a famous watering spot on the trail. As in many other Kansas counties, the struggle to determine

which town would become county seat was fierce. The battle was so expensive that the town of Ulysses went deeply into debt. In 1909, the buildings of the town were moved three miles to the present site to prevent foreclosure at the old town site. Only a masonry school was left behind for the East Coast bondholders. The “new” City of Ulysses became a reality as the result of 33 petitioners. The city had been moved to its current site in 1921.

Most of the conference sessions will be held at Pioneer Electric Cooperative. The historic Adobe Museum will be our local host museum. The Keynote Address will be given by Mark Reed “Current Trends in Museums and Zoos”. Reed has served as Sedgwick County Zoo director since 1991 and was the Zoo’s Assistant Director for 12 years prior to being named Director.

Shirley Gorge and Deborah Kennamore will start traveling to Ulysses on Tuesday October 21st for their set up day and four afternoon workshops on Wednesday October 22nd. There is also a KMA Board of which Deborah Kennamore is a member. Sessions will run Thursday, and Friday with the most exciting KMA Annual Banquet and Benefit Auction held at the Landmark Supper Club. This event is sponsored by Coffey County Economic Development, Coffey Health System, and Coffey County Historical Museum.

“We hope to bring home a wealth of information,” says Kennamore. “This meeting is always like a ‘pep rally’ for museums. It is a huge help in keeping us focused and on task to make our museum the best across the state.”



## News From the Director by *Deborah Kennamore*



This newsletter was written and organized by our new student worker, Jessi Cherry. Jessi is already a huge asset to the museum and is a great help with enthusiasm and eagerness and knowledge. We have many things planned for her in the upcoming school year and she is a joy to have around.

Shirley Gorge and I are getting ready to head out across the state to western Kansas to the Annual Kansas Museum Association meeting. It is the later part of the month and it is always fun and lots of hard work. We will report on this meeting in upcoming newsletters.

The most exciting news is Jim Hoy has agreed to come present his "Boots and Stetson's" informational speech for our Annual Meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The evening will begin with a short meeting and presentations at 6 p.m. and Jim will start his presentation

at 6:30 p.m. This is open to the public and we hope you will all come and enjoy this most pleasant evening. It is our offering to the community. Please see us then!

Shirley has been very busy with new exhibits and updating some older exhibits: the trunk exhibit has two trunks added that were donations from Mrs. Younie; the Fair exhibit has had some items re-arranged; and the new 4-H exhibit is complete.

Shirley is also working on signage in the Veterans display. Do you have any ideas for exhibits that you would like to see? We are always open for suggestions.

This year we have two board members retiring their positions from the Coffey County Historical Society: Opal I. Kunkel from Waverly and Bill Freeman from LeRoy. These

two board members have donated the maximum amount of terms they are allowed by our current by-laws. We will be voting in two new members at the upcoming board meeting, please be here to cast your vote. Opal and Bill, you both know what a huge asset you have been to us and we won't say good-bye because we know that we will still see you on a regular basis. Words would never be able to express our appreciation fully so please just accept our Thank you!

We are in desperate need for weekend volunteers. These dedicated folks sit at the museum and greet visitors for us on Saturday and Sunday so that we can be open seven days a week. Very little training is required. Would you be interested? If so please call us! **WE NEED YOU!**

Happy Fall to everyone. Enjoy the changing of the leaves and College Football!

### *...Stepping Stones to the Future*



Buy a Brick that will lead to our new Gazebo. They are only \$40.00 per Brick and allowed 2 lines with 13 characters per line. Come in and buy one today!

We are hoping to break ground in 2004 so get your bricks purchased soon!

We need Your help in making our dream come true!

## New Arrivals by Shirley Gorge

At the beginning of September, I had the pleasure of meeting a wonderful young boy named Gary Wright. Gary had contacted the museum wanting to donate some of his GI Joe Dolls. When he and his father came in to donate the dolls, I was very impressed with him. He was so excited to be donating, which made me feel even happier to receive them! Because of his age and his enthusiasm in donating to the museum, we, at the museum, felt that this story needed to be shared with others. I contacted Gary and his father again and asked if I could do an interview with them for our Timelines Newsletter. They agreed and came in a few days later. Gary's father came prepared! He had already written up something for me to use if I wanted. Here is what his father, also named Gary, wrote about his son and his collection.

"Gary has visited museums from the west coast to the east coast that represents all the branches of the service; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and the Battleship "North Carolina". He has

developed a true sense of patriotism that is shown by his attendance at Veteran's Ceremonies and Memorials. He has an entire room for display of his G.I. Joe collection as well as actual weaponry, military vehicles, and buildings."

While Gary was visiting with me, I found out some interesting things!

He is ten years old and lives with his father in Burlington. He got interested in collecting the G.I. Joe's because he likes the military and wants to be a soldier when he grows up. He started his collection 7 years ago in Wyoming and has added to the collection from states such as Arizona, Illinois, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, California, and Kansas. His favorite G.I. Joe is Vietnam Infantryman Sergeant. I asked Gary, if he could create a G.I. Joe, what would he be like? With a big smile, he

said that it would be a robot with a remote control so that he could dress himself! It would have real hair, a

comb for his hair, a real metal helmet, with real boots and socks. He would have a gun with a clip and a real bulletproof vest and walkie-talkie phone. To top it all off he would have a remote



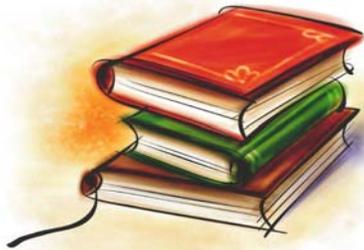
G.I. Joes and Helicopter

control Hummer.

In closing, I asked Gary what had made him decide to give up some of his collection by donating to the museum. Gary quickly answered, "I did it for the community".

## Genealogy Library News by Pat Price

The library has been busy the past few months. We have had local visitors from Waverly, visitors from Colorado, and many



other states. Many visitors of the Museum have enjoyed the extent of our files and records.

We have recently helped guests from the following states: Wyoming, North Carolina, California, Washington, New York, New Mexico, and Mississippi. We have helped

find history for: Atherly, Bingham, Hamilton, Hunt, Kellum, Ogden, Walters, Hoover, and Townsend. Businesses that the tourists have asked about include: Warner Machine Shop in Waverly.

Come in to visit with us and enjoy the rest of the museum, you may also end up in our library to look up your family. What a great way to enjoy your day.

## Names and Dates Needed by Jean Beaty

One of the pleasant aspects derived from my responsibilities is being able to send the birthday cards that go out from here. I know from the numbers of you on our membership list the we could be remembering many more of you as well.

Who doesn't enjoy getting a remembrance in the mail at no matter what age? Please take a minute and give us a call or drop us a card! It gives us great pleasure to put one in the mail to you.



## **COFFEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

1101 Neosho St.  
Burlington, KS 66839

Phone: 1-620-364-2653  
Fax: 1-888-877-2653  
Email: [artifact@kans.com](mailto:artifact@kans.com)

**We're on the Web!**

[www.coffeycountymuseum.org](http://www.coffeycountymuseum.org)

## **The Annual Pioneer Days Coming Soon!**

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The Coffey County Museum is geared up to hold its annual Pioneer Days in conjunction with Kansas Days. It will be held on Saturday January 24, 2004 at the Coffey County Museum.

This event has been a great success in the past. It is filled with fun for all ages. These priceless events have consisted of: quilting, apple peeling, candle making, Old Time music, rope making, butter churning, and historical re-enactors, school, and church, and much, much, more.

Volunteers from the community make this event possible, and are so proud to have such eager helpers living in Coffey County and the surrounding areas.

The museum asks that anyone who would like to volunteer for this event please contact the museum prior to Pioneer Days. Also anyone who has any suggestions on this occasion please contact us at the above address/

phone number.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for making Pioneer Days such a success.

