



Preston Historical Society

Post Office Box 138
Preston, Minnesota 55965

A 501C/3 Non-Profit Corporation

NEWSLETTER
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President's Corner

Sheila Craig

First of all I would like to extend a huge thank you to the core group of PHS members who volunteer at each event to keep the Preston Historical Society a viable organization in Preston and to have a presence at many events. See Norma Vogt's and Elaine Maust's articles elsewhere in this newsletter!

However, there are many challenges facing PHS:

- Fundraising is always a challenge for any organization and PHS is no exception. Help in coming up with a new fundraising idea would be most welcome.
- More active members attending monthly meetings and helping form the core group of volunteers would be wonderful!
- The struggle continues for finding a permanent home as the City has not yet been able to purchase the former Dairy & Farm location because of environmental concerns that have to still be mitigated.
- Some repairs will be needed on the elevator in 2017. There is a broken window on the top and the west door. Plans are in process to have these items completed.

Please consider ways that you can participate in the 2017 ongoing operations, special events, and fundraisers. THANKS!

PHS Storage

Sheila Craig

Storage space has been a continuing challenge for the Preston Historical Society since we still don't have a permanent home.

For many years Andy & Anita Bisek have been donating Free storage space to PHS in their building on Main Street. They need to discontinue that service for us as they have a need themselves for the space.

Don & Dorre Besse, owners of Besse Storage have graciously offered the use of one of their storage units (a 10' x 15' unit) for our use. Their donation is also for PHS to use this unit Free for one year.

Our special thanks to both the Bisek's and Besse's for their great support to the Preston Historical Society.



Marilyn Duxbury pictured volunteering as a hostess at the Caboose open house during the Taste of the Trail event, September 17.

Fall Events in Preston

Norma Vogt

On September 17th the Taste of the Trail was held at the Trailhead with music, food, games. Our caboose was open along with the doors of the elevator for viewing. Those who visited enjoyed being able to look around and finding out the importance of the conductor who traveled and worked in the caboose. Approximately 80 people went through. Thank you to Marilyn Duxbury, Ann Ott, Jeanette Schmidt and Norma Vogt for working.

Preston's Fall Expo and Pumpkin Fest was held on October 22nd at the Fillmore Central Middle School. Our booth featured a slide show on historical pictures along with items for sale. The event was well attended with costume parade, wagon rides and scavenger hunt. A fun day. Thank you to Nancy Gartner and Norma Vogt

Need A Gift?

There are still available History of Preston Books - \$20; Elevator Birdhouses - \$20; and as of this writing there is ONE (1) Red Wing crocks with "old courthouse" picture on one side and 2005 sesquicentennial logo on the other side - \$30.

Tractor Ride

Elaine Maust

Our 2016 Tractor Ride was a big success. We realized \$4900.00 for all of our efforts. Many of the drivers expressed their satisfaction of how much they enjoyed the routes, food, and time to visit with other tractor driving enthusiasts. They especially enjoyed the fact that their tractors were kept overnight in a locked shed which those who go on many rides said they never had that luxury before.

Our society members voted to have the ride again in 2017 on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17 and hope we can get the help from our members again for this great economic benefit to our historical society.

Raffle Winners Announced

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 Historical Society projects.

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 and individuals, listed below were also gracious to provide the many prizes.

3-night downtown St. Paul lodging in Historical House Apartment - John & Helen Buche (\$375 value) David Gardner, Preston.

Nike Golf Drive - Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$300 value) Chad Finseth, Preston.

Handmade Pieced Holiday Quilt - Quip & Sew Quilters (\$200 value) Donna Conlan, Preston.

Nike Golf Bag - Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$130 value) Mark Seaquist, St. Louis Park
Metal Trout Sculpture - John Carlin (\$75 value) MariLyn Bakke, Preston

2 Commonweal Theater Tickets - KFIL (\$70 value) Kim Schroeder, Zumbrota

2 Gift Certificates - Preston Motor Mart, Rich Irish (value \$50 each) Tandy Perkins, Elma, IA and Cathy Enerson, Byron

Gift Certificate to Cabelas-Anonymous donor (\$50 value) Joyce Nagel, Preston

Gift Certificate - Branding Iron (\$50 value) Cheryl Petsch, Preston

Gift Certificate - NAPA & Root River

Hardware (\$50 value) Gene Smith, Preston

Gift Certificate – Sweet Stop & Sandwich Shoppe (\$50 value) Roxie Knies, Preston
 Titleist ProV Golf Balls - Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$45 value) Ellen Whalen, Harmony
 Afghan - Ila Olstad (\$40 value) Rick Stockman, Preston
 MN Gopher Tied Fleece Blanket – Sheila Craig (\$40 value) Geraldine Daley, Preston
 Jailhouse Stories book & 2 coffee mugs – JailHouse Historic Inn, Innkeepers, Jeanne & Marc Sather (\$35value) Mike Odenbrit, Preston
 Holiday Table Runner – Ann Sparks (\$30 value) Marilyn Duxbury, Preston
 Viking Cap – Greg & Bonnie Davids (\$25 value) Will Sparks, St. Paul
 2 Pork Gift Certificates good at Harmony, Preston or Rushford Foods– Gulbranson Farms (\$25 value each), Jon Haugan, Preston and Traci Corson, Preston
 Gift Certificate –The Club, Preston (\$25 value) Donna Dreier, Preston
 Red Plaid Tied Fleece Blanket – Linda Wolfe (\$25 value) Norm Craig, Preston

Days I Remember

Bob Maust

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

We continue our journey about town.

As we cross the street from Ebert Hardware which is now government employment offices, we come to the Fillmore County Journal building which was the Park Hotel. This building was originally three floors and in later years was made into five floors. In the days of railroad transportation sales people would come to Preston and would stay at the Park Hotel when they called on customers which included groceries, fuel, drugs to the drug stores, etc.

Next door to the Park Hotel was Thompson Abstract building. In the days before we

had title insurance everyone had an abstract for any piece of real estate property which described the property including all previous owners and all previous liens on that property. Mr. Thompson built the stone house where Ryan Throckmorton lives now. Before Thompson Abstract there used to be a bank in this building. That is why a vault is still in there.

Next to the abstract office was Jacobson's Restaurant operated by Everett Jacobson and his wife. They served meals seven days a week from breakfast to nite time supper. Later it became Pugh's Paint Store and then Bob's TV .

In the next building was Bill's TV & Antenna Service which became McHan's Plumbing.

Next door to this was the Times Newspaper with Ode Langum as its editor. He built the big brick home next to Robert O'Reilly. The building was later purchased by the Spangler family for an antique store and has now been rented to the National Trout Center for the past seven years.

Across the alley from the Times was Kuman Jewelry Store and watch repair. It later became Tlougan Jewelry and then a pizza shop and is now the Sweet Stop Deli.

On the corner was Fairbairn Standard Station. This station was torn down and the Eye Clinic is now there. The Standard Station was operated by Ralph Fairbairn.

To the east of the standard station was where Clair & Evelyn Hovelson operated a restaurant out of their home. If we go north across the street from the standard station was a Mobile Station and bus depot served by the Jefferson Bus Lines. It was serviced by daily bus routes to Decorah, LaCrosse,

Austin and Rochester. It was operated by Duffy Lewis. Later Jerry Ostrem ran the auto repair business and it was where he started his auto body repair business before moving to the site next to 52 now. The FM bank moved from the lower street to this property in the early 70's.

If we go across the alley there was a large home where Stub Peterson and his family moved to after selling his farm to Porter Broadwater. Next door to this home was the Sinclair Gas Station operated by Charlie Barnes owned by Ernest Wubbels. At one point in time there were 2 Standard, 2 Sinclair, a Phillips 66, a Mobile, and a DX Station all operating at the same time.

We will proceed out to the belt line in a later issue. *To be continued...*

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Pictured are the remnants of the turn table at Isinours which was the connecting point for the rail line from Preston to the main Milwaukee Railroad line.

