



December 2009

# Wildwood Historical Society Newsletter

GROVER ● POND ● HOLLOW ● CENTAUR ● MELROSE ● FOX CREEK ● ORRVILLE ● ALLENTON ● WESTLAND ACRES ● KELPE ● MONARCH

## Christmas Party at the Hencken House Museum:

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The 2009 Wildwood Historical Society Christmas Party will be held at the Hencken House museum property at 18750 Highway 100 on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. and continue until 10:00 pm. All society supporters and their guests are welcome to attend. Please bring a favorite holiday "finger-food" to share. We will eat around 7:00 pm. Please join us and take this opportunity to see the interior of the old house. Depending on the weather, we will provide tours of the outbuildings for those who have not yet had a chance to see them.

## Cluck, Cluck: Now Serving Dessert in the Chicken Coop

Beginning in 2010, coffee and dessert will be available before our monthly meetings in the "chicken coop" at our museum property. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for a little socializing if you have the time. Please give a small "free will" donation in the box for this pre-meeting gathering. Monies collected will be used for specific repair and fix-up projects announced throughout the year.

### *Meeting Calendar*

3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

7:00 P.M.

WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM

(IN THE CHICKEN COOP)

18750 HIGHWAY 100

### December 12

- **Christmas Party - 6:00 P.M.**

In the Hencken House

### January 19

- **History of Bellefontaine Cemetery**

by Mike Pierce

### February 16

- **Program to be determined**

### *Membership*

Join the

Wildwood Historical  
Society

\$20 per year single

\$25 per year family

Make checks payable to:

Wildwood Historical  
Society

P.O. Box 125

Wildwood, MO 63040

## Closing on Our Museum Property

Since our last special newsletter, we have closed on our museum property at 18750 Highway 100, which we will use to showcase the unique history of the Wildwood area. The land and buildings were appraised at \$330,000, the final sales price. The owner, Carol Damhorst, donated \$30,000 of the cost, and the Society invested \$50,000 in savings (*Thanks to your donations over the years!*). The Society then secured a \$250,000 loan with Rockwood Bank to close the sale. This loan is a "3-year note," meaning that in November 2012, we will need to either renew the loan with Rockwood Bank or secure longer-term financing.

The Board of Trustees understands this is a significant commitment for an organization of our size (currently about 70 dues-paying members). Nonetheless, with the downturn in the real estate market, the Trustees felt it was a sound investment that might never be available again. Both the Board and the new Museum Committee will continue to ask those interested in preserving and utilizing this property to consider making annual donations to an on-going capital campaign. In addition to the rent received from Clarence and Patty Schaege, society members who have moved into the house, the Society must pay an additional \$930 each month. Any aid in meeting this monthly commitment will be greatly appreciated and is tax deductible.

**THE WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE**

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

## *Officers*

**James Martin**, PRESIDENT

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## *Trustees*

**Martha Bunch**

**Tom Kelpel**

**Helen Gaele**

**Jill VonGruben**

**Rich Hardt**

## *Editor*

**Matthew Kelpel**

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bus Tour

Thanks to all of those who helped with this year's bus tour! A special thanks to:

- Patty Schaeg — reservations and follow-up phone calls
- Fred Bunch and Tom Kelpel — bus driving  
Once again, a great and safe trip!
- Jim & Lynne Martin and Matthew Kelpel — tour guides
- Bethel United Methodist Church, Living Word United Methodist Church, and Terry Grewe — use of buses for our tour
- Thanks to Lynne Martin and her family for providing the food and preparing the meal. A special thanks also goes to those served and cleaned up after the luncheon: Clarence Schaeg, Randy and Marilyn Herberg, Annette Reid, Megan Martin, Kaye Allen, Martha Bunch, Lisa Daum, Kim Pappas, Dave, Jill, and Kristen VonGruben, Lisa and Anna Kelpel, Dot Penleton, and Marilyn Weber. Sorry if we forgot anyone. We sincerely appreciated all the help that made our tour day a success!



↑ Bus tour riders enjoy the view  
from River Craig

Photos by Martha Bunch

← Our outside tour stop:  
Bellevue Farm

## **Election of Our Museum Director**

At our November Trustees meeting, the board elected Lynne Martin to the position of Museum Director. This voluntary position, outlined in the Society's bylaws, will lead a committee of approximately 20 people interested in preserving and enhancing the use of our five-acre property. The director and committee will be responsible for attaining maximum use of the property and will provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees for programs and capital improvements to it. Anyone interested in providing help or ideas should contact Lynne at 636-458-3306.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Interested in helping move the Society's collection to our new facilities? Interested in helping clean up and improve our buildings and property? Please call Lynne and let her know your interests and talents!

## **Election of Secretary**

Joyce Mercer, our Society Secretary, stepped down after serving for over six years. Sandy Gurnow was appointed to fulfill the remainder of her current term and has been confirmed by the Board of Trustees. Thanks to Joyce for her work over the past years in keeping meeting minutes, taping the business portions of our meetings, and providing correspondence as needed.

## **Preparation of Our New Museum Property**

Thanks to those who enabled us to move into our new meeting facility on time!

A special thanks to:

- Dot and Rusty Pendleton, Steve Scott, Randy and Marilyn Herberg, Tom, Lisa, Matthew, and Anna Kelpel, Lisa Daum, Marty and Mimi White, and Jim & Lynne Martin for helping to prepare the grounds and the "chicken coop" for our bus tour luncheon. Windows were cleaned, repaired or removed, grass was mowed, the entire "coop" was cleaned and painted on the inside, the electric was inspected, and new linoleum was installed in the bathroom.
- Sandy Gurnow — donation of a slightly-used refrigerator for use in the Hencken House

## **E-mail Addresses Wanted to Cut Down on Newsletter Costs**

You received the full version of our December 2009 newsletter. *This complete version is only available via e-mail and includes more news and photos.* By receiving our e-mail version, you have saved the society over \$2 per year. THANK YOU! Better yet, you get each newsletter faster, with color photos, and can easily forward it to interested friends or relatives. If your e-mail address ever changes, please let me know by e-mailing me at [matthewkelpel@gmail.com](mailto:matthewkelpel@gmail.com) or calling me at (636)458-2860. Also, if you know anyone else who would like to receive our newsletter, please contact me so I can add them to our list. THANKS!



May 31, 1889

Old Settlers' Association.

At the meeting of the Old Settlers' Association committee, last week, the President was authorized to engage the grounds and hall of the Mount Olive Saengerbund for July 4, in which to give their annual picnic. It was decided that the event be strictly a basket picnic. V. Spiegelberg and F. W. Rauchenstein were appointed a committee to engage ten musicians with string instruments for dancing music. No admission will be charged to enter the Park, but each gentleman who enters the dancing ball will be charged 50 cents. The President and Victor Spiegelberg were appointed a committee to invite prominent speakers to address the people assembled. Messrs. A. J. Shores and F. W. Rauchenstein were authorized to make all necessary purchases, and to make disposition of bar and refreshment privileges. The Secretary announced that the St. Louis, Kansas City & Colorado Railway would carry passengers to and from Clayton for one fare from any point on the road. The Secretary was requested to send a circular to every member, inviting him to be present, and to such old citizens of the county and city as would be likely to attend. It was ordered that the necessary posters be printed. Judge Philip Lanham was appointed Grand Marshal, and the following gentlemen were appointed Aides: ... Fred Schulz, Meramec township; ....

The meeting adjourned to Wednesday, June 5, at 4 p.m.