

The Heritage Center Past Times

Vol. I, No. 1

Open Tuesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Summer 2008

Spanning the Past, Present, and Future of the Area Communities of Angelus, Campus, Grinnell, Orange and Orion, Kansas – Let's Save Our Memorabilia before It Is All Lost!

<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/gove/heritagecenter/heritage.html>

The mission of the Grinnell-Angelus Area Heritage Center is to gather, classify, and preserve a wide variety of artifacts from our communities of Grinnell, Angelus, Orion, Campus, Orange, and the surrounding rural areas to demonstrate the uniqueness of our area of Kansas, and to provide a place where people can access them.

**Harvest Fest opening: Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.; Sunday, 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.
Quilt tickets also available at our booth Sunday Evening at Fire Station**

Why a Heritage Center and Why Now?

By Judy Hart

The idea of a Heritage Center for our Area came from a question my oldest son Ted asked me when I told him that Grinnell High School would be closed at the end of the 2006 – 07 school term. He asked me what was going to happen to all the trophies, pictures, and other memorabilia of the school. I told him that as long as there was a school in Grinnell, those items would remain at the school buildings. But then I got to thinking. What had happened to all of the memorabilia of Angelus Grade School? Where were the trophies and old uniforms of the Angelus Raiders? Where were the other historical items from there? I asked around and no one seemed to know. Because the Warriors had ceased to be the school mascot during that last year Grinnell High School was open, I began to realize that if nothing was done to preserve that heritage, in all likelihood, those items would also disappear.

I began sharing those concerns with others in our community. An idea of a

Heritage Center started to germinate. Nine other individuals committed themselves to the formation of a Center in Grinnell: Lynette Wolf, Karen Mense, Cheryl Huelsman, Roxie Nelson, Joan Gallion, Jackie Teeter, Bernard Dickman, Anita Huelsman, and Sonny Weinhardt.

The next step was to find a location to house the Center. One evening I was driving down Adams Street in Grinnell and noticed the Grinnell Township Building just setting there, empty most of the year. Elections are now held in the VFW Hall so little happens in that magnificent historic building built in 1921. I knew Bill Brown was a trustee so I went over to his house immediately that evening and asked him if there was a possibility that we could use the Hall as the home of a Heritage Center. He said that he didn't know why not but that he would have to contact Charlie Moos and Doyle Yale, the other two trustees. The three of them gave us permission to open a Center there, and they agreed to supply the paint if we would supply the labor to spruce the Hall up again. All three told me that they were pleased to see that the Hall would have a purpose once again, and we were tickled pink to have to opportunity to do just that as we set about to fulfill our mission.

The organizational meeting was held in the Township Hall on Monday, June 25, 2007. The first order of business was to establish the Center, chose a Board of Directors, and to begin the process of incorporation. A mission statement was written, and we were in business. At the July 10 meeting the mission statement was adopted, by-laws were discussed, Cheryl and Karen volunteered to create a publicity pamphlet, and plans were made to begin cleaning and painting the Hall. At the meeting on July 25 we were up and running. Clean-up was scheduled, by-laws were adopted for a first read, and an agreement with USD 291 was discussed. I took the by-laws and USD 291 agreement to our attorney to get a legal opinion on both documents. We decided to be open every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00.

By the August 29 meeting, we began to paint and polish the building. We also planned for an Open House at the end of October that would be a night at the Old Lyric Theater. (Surely we would be ready by then!) GAB-Pride donated \$200 to help us get started. In September we asked the Board of Education of USD 291 for Warrior and Braves items no longer in use by the school as well as other memorabilia from Angelus, Grinnell Grade, Grinnell Middle, and Grinnell High Schools. Progress on the painting was obvious. Thanks to dedicated scaffold-work, Cheryl had painted up to the 20 foot high original tin ceiling. Plans for a Youth Pride Pumpkin Fest were made and the October 28 old-time movie night was finalized. Memberships were established. Donations of items including furniture were now being accepted. Anita and Charles Huelsman donated the "Coach" Randy Struckhoff collection, and we are very appreciative

of their generosity. We decided to close during the winter months except by appointment due to the lack of heat. Meetings would be held in the Dickman Accounting Office. Cheryl and Karen began working on the Community Calendar.

November found us concluding our incorporation process planning a "Remembering Our Communities" afternoon in January where we would invite citizens from throughout the area to tell us about what it was like in "the good old days." In January we accepted the Grinnell Alumni collection as part of the Heritage Center Research Area. Tables and shelves from Carolyn Rausch were moved in, and the "Remembering Our Communities" was set for January 27 at the Senior Center. In February and March Barney worked on our tax-exempt status, and we planned an afternoon remembering World War II for April as a reopening activity. April 27 was a cool afternoon in the Center, but the veterans and their families brought that era to life again for those in attendance.

Spring of 2008 has been busy at the Center. Archivist Lynette Wolf and her committee continue to catalog all items, Roxie and her committee have quilted a Heritage Center quilt that we will sell chances on for the After-harvest Fest, and we have joined to Smoky Hill Trail Association. Many items have been donated from the Orion area from the Charlie Bartlett family. Our special exhibit for Summer 2008 is a tribute to our veterans, Civil War to today.



Randy Struckhoff
By Anita Huelsman

“Coach” Randy Struckhoff was with Charlie, my husband, and me from the 1970’s until he was called home to his maker in 2006.

He was the community’s official mascot and he meant a lot to the people who knew him and loved him. “Coach” loved baseball, basketball, and football, especially the Warriors and Braves teams. He lived his life as a devoted Grinnell Warrior supporter and fan. In 2005 the scoreboard in the high school gym was dedicated to him and a “Coach Randy Appreciation Night” was held so the people of the community could show him how much he meant to them. He received lots and lots of honorary plaques, letters, and items from his beloved Kansas City Royals, KU and K State teams. Congressman Jerry Moran sent him a congratulatory letter, and he received a reward from the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Randy was also a very religious man who was dedicated to his faith and lived it on a daily basis.

We decided to donate his vast collection of memorabilia to the Grinnell-Angelus Area Heritage Center so that visitors to the Center will be able to see all the items that Randy loved and used, from his baseball card collection, to the pictures and rewards, to his school memories, to his rosaries and other religious items. Randy was a gift from heaven whose impact on those here in our communities cannot be exaggerated. He taught our young people more about compassion and acceptance just by sharing his love of them, and they in return loved him deeply.

He is sorely missed by all of us.

SALUTE!
By Jackie Teeter

If you were here for the first round table discussion, you probably learned some of the history of Grinnell. The second round table discussion was held on Sunday, April 27th with our local veterans of WWII telling about their enlistment/draft and war experiences. Several wives of deceased veterans told how they kept the home fires burning. Many had young families and told how they moved in with parents and in-laws while their husbands defended our freedom. Fred Bixenman showed a German flag with a swastika that he acquired while serving over seas. Al Tholen recalled who, what, and where he was when war was declared. He also told about being rationed 6 gallons of gas, but you had to go to Gove to redeem your coupon. As you listened, you could almost picture the families gathered around the radio listening for news of the war.

The Heritage Center will be honoring all military services WWI, WWII, Korean Conflict, Vietnam and Desert Storm through Labor Day. For anyone researching ancestry, there is a journal with names, type of service (Army, Navy, etc.), and date of enlistment for residents of Gove, Logan, Sheridan, and Thomas Counties. There are also pictures, uniforms, and memorabilia. If you have something you would like to display, contact one of the Heritage Center’s Board.

Come take a walk back in time with us. Thank you to all the families that kept and are keeping the home fires burning. God Bless all the men and women who fought and are fighting to keep us “One Nation, Under God, with Liberty and Justice for All.”

Donations for the quilt drawing at the After Harvest Fest – 1/\$1, or 6/\$5.

Contact any Board Member.

Perhaps this poem Lynette Wolf shares with her Family History classes will help explain our mission at the Heritage Center.

Strangers in the Box

Author Unknown

Come, look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
Faces proud, still, and serene.

I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories,
Are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like,
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time,
To tell, who, what, where, and when,
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again.

Could this become the fate,
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories,
Someday to be passed away?

Take time to save your stories,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours,
Could be strangers in the box.

In each issue of this newsletter we will be featuring pictures from our communities, and we will be asking for your help in identifying the people, places, and events. We need your help or these pictures will continue to be just pictures with no meaning.

Can you identify these people? Do you know where it was taken and when? The only thing we know is that this picture was in an album from the Charlie Bartlett family.



Grinnell-Angelus Area Heritage Center Memberships

Benefactor: \$500 donation

(Family/Individual/Organization)
Lifetime membership in the GAAHC
Name on Benefactors' Plaque
Annual Community Calendar
GAAHC Newsletters
Membership card for entry into events
Discount on GAAHC gift items

Patron: \$100 annual donation
(Family/Individual/Organization)

Name on Patrons' Plaque/year
Annual Community Calendar
GAAHC Newsletters
Membership card for entry into events
Discount on GAAHC gift items

Family/Organization: \$25 annual donation

Annual Community Calendar
GAAHC Newsletters
Membership card for entry into events

Single: \$15 annual donation
Annual Community Calendar
GAAHC Newsletters
Membership card for entry into events

Youth: (Grades 1 – 12):

\$5 annual donation
Annual Community Calendar
Membership card for entry into events
Invitations to special events