



HISTORIC WICHITA COWTOWN, INC.
1865 WEST MUSEUM BOULEVARD
WICHITA, KANSAS 67203

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wichita, Kansas
Permit No.585

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY



PROUD MEMBER OF **MUSEUMS ON THE RIVER** DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gregg Willhite, *President*
David Haglund, *Vice-President*
David Dennis, *Treasurer*
David Crockett, *Secretary*

Bill Ard
Beverly Baker
Carolyn Conley
Sharon Fearey
Bob Garrett
Josh Greenwood
Matt Haase
Tim Holt
Martha Housholder
John McKay
Kevin Regan
Damon Schimming
James Upton
Julia Washburn

John D'Angelo, *ex-officio*
David Flask, *ex-officio*
Kathy Holdeman, *ex-officio*
Ron Holt, *ex-officio*
Kelly Parks, *ex-officio*

FALL 2010

Is That Building Really “For Sale”?

By Amy Loch, Curator

Have you walked the streets of Cowtown and wondered about the “For Sale” building located between the Munger House and the Harness and Saddle Shop? Since I started at the museum almost five years ago, I have heard many visitors inquire about what is inside and is the building really for sale? For years we have had to answer that the building is used for much needed storage space, but next season the “For Sale” sign will be gone. In its place will be Finlay Ross Furniture, Cowtown’s new furniture store exhibit.

This exhibit will be modeled on historic furniture stores, including Finlay Ross Furniture for which the store will be named. Furniture stores of the 1870s were often simple structures with fur-

niture packed in with simple paths for access. Cowtown’s Finlay Ross Furniture Store will be set up in this manner. The exhibit will serve as a dual space for the museum by providing a new exhibit for the public while maintaining a type of open storage for the museum’s furniture which is currently not on exhibit.

The original Finlay Ross Furniture store opened in 1876 on the corner of Main Street and First Street. Upon its opening it was described as being “a fully stocked, first class furniture store.” Ross’s furniture store grew into a Wichita staple as the store expanded and relocated into a larger location. Ross remained in the furniture business until 1898, one year after being elected as mayor of Wichita.

Whadyado When They Can’t Come to You?

By Anthony Horsch, Director of Education

For many reasons some school children are not able to come to Old Cowtown Museum, but this year that won’t stop them from learning about the 1870s life. Cowtown on the Road is a group of education programs that come with a guide in period attire and activities that help students think about the past in a different way.

Readin’, Writin’ & Recitation — Students take the role of a child in a one-room school while our “teacher” leads them through lessons and exercises of the 1870s.

Manners and Marbles — Education did not take place only in the school

house; rather some of the most important teaching occurred before and after school, at home. Students will discover some of the games, etiquette and lessons that were a part of life when Wichita was young.

Cowpokes and Trail Drives — Students will see the boredom and dangers of a cattle drive through the cowboys’ eyes, as well as try some of the tools and equipment that made this way of life possible.

These programs last about one hour and are designed for single classes. The cost of the program is \$3/student for one program. Title I schools are charged \$1.50/student for one program.



<p>The Best of 1870s Arts & Crafts Quilting! Blacksmithing! Corn Grinding! Flour Milling! Leather working Sorghum Pressing Spinning and Weaving! & Much More!</p>	<p>HARVEST OF PROGRESS: A COUNTY FAIR</p> <hr/> <p>October 9th 9:30- 4:30</p> <hr/> <p>COWTOWN TALENT CONTEST</p> <p>“STRONG AS A HORSE” CONTEST</p> <p>PRETTIEST BABY CONTEST</p> <hr/> <p>Games of SKILL & CHANCE at the Midway</p>	<p>Entertainment for all ages! Judged Exhibitions! Spelling Bees! Tug of War ! Wheelbarrow Races! Bucket Brigade! Music!</p> <hr/> <p>Historic and Farm Animals!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>FUN Galore!</p> </div> <hr/> <p>VOTE for Cowtown’s Mayor!</p>
<p>Kansas State Vintage Baseball Tournament Hosted by the Red Stockings & the Bulldozers</p>	<p>1865 West Museum Blvd Wichita, KS 67203 www.oldcowtown.org</p> 	

The Cowtown Chronicle is published by Historic Wichita Cowtown, Inc., the Advisory group for Old Cowtown Museum, 1865 West Museum Boulevard, Wichita, KS 67203. It is distributed to the members and donors of Old Cowtown Museum. For membership information, call 316-350-3321.
© Copyright 2010 Historic Wichita Cowtown, Inc. ISSN 1522-7375. All rights reserved. Historic Wichita Cowtown, Inc. disclaims responsibility for statements of facts or opinion made by contributors.

The Cowtown CHRONICLE

FALL 2010 ★ VOL. 12 / NO. 3

*Produced for the
members and friends of
Old Cowtown Museum*

2010 Hours & Admission Through November 15

OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM
is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday and
noon to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.
Closed Monday-Tuesday.

After November 15
open hours will change
to Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.
to 4 p.m. Closed on Sundays
and Mondays.

*Cowtown can accommodate groups and
school classes year-round by reservation.*

REGULAR MUSEUM ADMISSION

Adults (18 to 61) \$ 7.75
Senior Citizens (62 and older) \$ 6.50
Youth (12 to 17) \$ 6.00
Children (4 to 11) \$ 5.50
No charge for children under 4 and
Old Cowtown Museum members

GROUP RATES

(for groups of 15 or more paying visitors)

Adults (18 and over) \$ 6.00
Youth (12 to 17) \$ 4.00
Children (4 to 11) \$ 3.00

No charge for children under 4
*For bus tour groups, complimentary
admission is given to the bus tour
driver and group tour leader.*

Old Cowtown Museum

1865 West Museum Boulevard
Wichita, Kansas
316.219.1871
www.oldcowtown.org

Cowtown Brims with Autumn Events

Just like prairie towns of the 1870s, October means it's time to get ready for a traditional county fair and Halloween at Old Cowtown Museum.

On October 9 Old Cowtown Museum will celebrate the annual County Fair. Staff and volunteers will provide dozens of demonstrations of the era, including basketry, bread making, quilting, chair caning, rug braiding, soap making, spinning, weaving and wheat grinding. Fair goers will also be invited to participate in a spelling bee, wheelbarrow races, wind the maypole and visit the Hall of Curiosities. Contests of skill and chance include talent, prettiest baby, Strong-as-a-Horse, sack races and much more.

That weekend the Cowtown Vintage Baseball teams also will host the Kansas State Vintage Baseball Invitational Tournament on the grounds Saturday and Sunday. The Cowtown teams — The Red Stockings and the Bull Dozers — are hosting the event.

Saturday hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Regular admission rates apply. This event is partially funded by Historic Wichita Cowtown, Inc. Members get in free!

Hay, Hooves and Halloween

The Cowtown Volunteer Corps is producing the popular Hay, Hooves and Halloween event again this year. Bring

the kids out (either in or out of costume) on Saturday, October 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or Sunday, October 31, from noon to 4:30 p.m. for trick-or-treating and general Halloween fun! We will have games, pumpkin drawing, face painting, spooky stories in the mortuary and reenact the Legend of Sleepy Hollow complete with Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman. Regular admission rates apply.

Haunted Cowtown

Old Cowtown Museum, in conjunction with the Wichita Paranormal Research Society (WPRS), celebrates Halloween by unveiling spirits throughout the streets and buildings of Cowtown. WPRS members believe Cowtown is haunted and have conducted numerous overnight investigations collecting data to confirm the presence of paranormal activity. The Historic Hauntings event will allow them to share their findings with interested guests.

The evening events will include a video and audio revealing evidence WPRS has collected during their investigations at Cowtown followed by a question and answer session. Afterwards, guests will be given guided tours inside buildings selected by WPRS.

The video presentation chronicles the group's personal experiences over the past year and includes video and audio



WATCH FOR THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN AT THE HAY, HOOVES AND HALLOWEEN EVENT.

footage. This footage was collected using digital cameras, electromagnetic field detectors, infrared cameras and digital voice recorders.

Historic Hauntings is offered October 23 or 30 at 6 or 9 p.m. All sessions will include the same information. This event is geared towards a mature audience. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at www.wichitatix.com. There are no member discounts. Space is limited so reserve early!

LET'S MAKE MERRY: A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Join us on the evenings of December 3, 4, 10 and 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. for our annual old-fashioned Christmas celebration. Whether Christmas at Cowtown is an annual event for your family or a brand new adventure, there will be entertainment to evoke your sense of nostalgia as well as new events and activities to experience each of the four evenings.

Beginning at 6 p.m., as the daylight dwindles, the town will come alive with holiday music and performances as well as traditional Christmas crafts and activities. Visitors also have the opportunity to purchase cookies, cocoa and unique Christmas gifts. Photos with Santa Claus will be taken at "Santa's Workshop" (Heller Cabin). Rumor has it that Santa's elves may have even set up shop.

Travel back in time as you experience the sights, sounds, and smells of early Wichita. Don't forget to stop by the houses to experience Christmas traditions brought with settlers from their homelands and see how traditional ethnic customs merge with an early American Christmas.

Nightly highlights include "The Night Before Christmas" play, performances by the Dixie Lee and Entre Nous dancers and magician Roscoe Riff as well as Social Club cookies and cocoa and displays by Blind Dog Quilts and Garden Railway Gizmos. Homemade Santas by

Georganna Robinson will be showcased on December 10 and 11. Special appearances will be made by Great Plains Dulcimer Alliance on December 3 and 11, Acoustic Treasures on December 10 and Air Capital Chorus on December 11.

Regular admission rates apply to this event. As one of our Signature Events, members get in free.

Christmas Dinner

If you attend our Christmas event at Cowtown, you are invited to add to the festivity of your evening by reserving a seat at our traditional Christmas dinner held in the Visitor Center each evening at 6 p.m. The dinner menu includes tossed salad, rolls, green beans and carrots, mashed potatoes and gravy, roast turkey, pot roast, and assorted cakes, pies and cheesecakes. Special entertainment during dinner will be presented by: December 3, Flatland String Band; December 4, Boeing Stratasingers; December 10, musical offerings by Clarrisa Pratter and Valery Philips; and December 11, Air Capital Chorus.

Prices for dinner and admission to the grounds are: adults, \$26.95; children, \$14.95. Members can make dinner reservations for \$19.95 (adults) and \$11.95 (children). Reservations are required and seating is limited, SO RESERVE EARLY! Reservations are available at www.wichitatix.com

Breakfast with Santa

Don't forget to reserve your seat for Breakfast with Santa on Saturday December 4. A perfect holiday tradition for little ones and their families, the event begins at 9 a.m. While waiting for Santa to arrive by stagecoach, guests can make some fun Christmas crafts and send a personalized telegram to the North Pole. Breakfast includes pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and fruit salad. The cost is: adults, \$12.95; children, \$7.95. Reservations are booking fast. To reserve your seat, go to www.wichitatix.com.





FRIENDS AND FAMILY GATHERED TO ENJOY THE EVENING, WHICH BEGAN WITH A WINE TASTING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON THE GROUNDS. THE WICHITA WAGONMASTERS COOKED AND SERVED THE BARBECUE DINNER (BELOW).

2nd Annual Cowtown Wine Mosey a Success

Historic Wichita Cowtown, Inc., the museum's advisory board, held the second annual Cowtown Wine Mosey on September 12. The event was organized by David and Judy Haglund and Josh Greenwood. Approximately 300 people participated in the wine tasting, barbecue dinner, raffle and live auction. Special thanks goes to Standard Beverage, LDE, WorldWide Wine and Spirits, and Glazer's for providing the wine. We also want to thank area wine groups for providing volunteer expertise in pouring and talking about the wines.

Following the wine tasting, a barbecue dinner was prepared and served by The Wichita Wagonmasters. The meat was donated by Cargill Corporation and the dessert was donated by HWC board member Beverly Buller.

The evening's excitement really got underway with the live auction. Items were donated by Jamie Stratton, Chester's Chophouse, Joe Parten at Carrabba's, Guy and Beth Bower, Alan and Sharon Fearey, Sedgwick County Sheriff Department, the Airport Hilton, Tim Holt, David and Judy Haglund, Robin Foley, AIWE, and Don and Cleo Mounday.

The Wine Mosey is a benefit for the HWC board and raises approximately three-fourths of the annual funds the board uses to support the museum. The other major source of income comes from memberships. The board financially supports the Education/ Interpretation, Volunteer, Event and Curatorial programs. They also select special projects such as the recently completed Heller Cabin.



Maintenance Crews Stay Busy

Cowtown is fortunate to have several City Public Works employees headquartered at Cowtown. In the last several months, they have been busy preparing for the start of the Comprehensive Drainage project, which should begin this fall. During this project, all of the boardwalks will be removed and our maintenance crew will get to see the condition of all the building foundations currently covered with walkways. They anticipate many issues that will need to be resolved.

Other projects the crew has been working on recently include: reopening the irrigation well at Visitor's Center, supervising reconstruction of the livery stable corral, rebuilding the front of the Children's Emporium building, supervising replacement of roofs, termite treatment on several buildings, installing new motion sensor lights, installing new HVAC units in several buildings, repairing the west Empire House foundation, replacing a fire escape, rewiring the gray bathroom building and pouring concrete behind the hotel to facilitate drainage.

Next season's list includes replacing or repairing approximately 30 roofs, painting building exteriors, and dealing with the projected large list of structural issues when the boardwalks are removed.

THANK YOU

To **Fidelity Bank** for donating metal shelving; to the **Cynthia Lemke Family** for the rag rug in the parsonage bedroom and rag rug material; to **Marti Deemer** for several historic books; to **Virgie Moore** and **Diana Shaughnessy** for various costuming and hands-on items.

Empire Hall Hosts Unmentionables, Needlework, Portraits

Empire Hall continues to host temporary exhibits that highlight portions of our collection rarely seen as well as explore period topics in more depth. The two current shows — "Unmentionables," an exhibit of period undergarments, and "Threads of Life: Victorian Needlework" — will be on display until November 15. After that, look for the "Frozen in Time" exhibition.

Unmentionables: Does the word "undergarment" make you blush? If so this exhibit may not be for you. However, if you look at old pictures and wonder how women squeezed into some of the early fashions, you should stop and see this exhibit.

Undergarments served many functions from adding warmth, creating shape, increasing cleanliness, providing class distinctions, and aiding in desirability. Shifts in society and thought processes led to trends and ideals which impacted undergarments throughout history. This exhibit looks at the impact on the Victorian era.

Threads of Life: Victorian Needlework: In the Victorian era, a woman began learning to sew as soon as her fingers could grasp a bit of string. In every stage of life there was always thread and needle at hand. Whether it was at play, making doll dresses, sewing up a sampler as a



way to perfect her stitch, making and mending clothing for her family as they settled in the West, creating the ornate decorative pieces found in and

around the Victorian home, sewing the comforting quilt that would someday cover her marriage bed, making a christening gown for her babies or a death shroud for her parents, or simply doing a pretty piece of handwork to adorn her

favorite undergarment, a woman spent her entire life stitching.

This exhibit represents the experiences of women and their handiwork throughout the course of their lives during the Victorian era. The exhibits include written excerpts from period books, diaries and narratives which provide a compilation of accounts documented in these sources. The photos and artifacts are from the permanent collection at Old Cowtown Museum.

Frozen in Time: From November 15



until December 15, "Frozen in Time: An Exhibit of Victorian Portraiture" will be displayed. This exhibit features items from several private collections that have never been displayed publicly. Several are from prominent early Wichita families.

The exhibit will feature 11 oil portraits dating from 1835-1890 along with smaller portraits in watercolor, pen and ink and oil. The exhibit will also explore the move away from original art portraits towards early photography.



PIE EATING CONTESTS FOR YOUNG AND OLD WERE HELD THROUGHOUT THE DAY. THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATE AMERICA EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. DESPITE THE RAINY WEATHER, OVER 800 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE ONE DAY EVENT. THIS EVENT WAS CO-SPONSORED BY HISTORIC WICHITA COWTOWN, INC.

Better from the President

On the heels of another successful Wine Mosey and as we take aim at winding down the tourist season at Old Cowtown Museum, I just wanted to take the opportunity to express my pleasure with how this season has gone.

Two of the season's biggest events — the Civil War weekend in April and Celebrate America in July — were co-sponsored by Historic Wichita, Cowtown, Inc. These events showcased different aspects of why Old Cowtown Museum continues to be a great entertainment value and deserves the accolades it has received.

For two days, "A Civil War Sampler" took visitors back to a most difficult but important time in our nation's history. Over 100 re-enactors came to Cowtown from around the region to participate in demonstrations, reenactments and encampments. The educational opportunity provided to the visiting public for interaction with these people was rare. It was a unique opportunity to really experience what our forebears endured during the Civil War. It gave everyone a greater appreciation and respect for our history. As an educational institution, this is an important facet of Cowtown.

Meanwhile, our Fourth of July event "Celebrate America" was filled with fun and games this year. From a celebrity pie-eating contest to Dr. Dillinger's Medicine Show, people enjoyed seven hours of non-stop entertainment, music, magic, contests and parades. Even though the day was rainy, over 800 people came early and stayed late. It was great to see visitors of all ages enjoying themselves. It reminds us that we can present history educationally in a variety of ways.

This year's events have reinforced the fact that Cowtown is a unique and valuable asset to our community. They have shown that history and education can be fun and entertaining. Events coming up to finish out 2010 include Harvest of Progress: A County Fair on October 9, Hay, Hooves and Halloween at the end of October, and our traditional Victorian Christmas celebration. Be sure and check elsewhere in this issue of the Chronicle for further details on these upcoming events.

So if you haven't been to see us for a while, come on out! You'll be pleasantly surprised. But whether you are regular visitors, long-absent guests or new to the area, I heartily invite everyone to come enjoy the Cowtown experience someday soon and take part in a rich and enduring Wichita tradition.

— Gregg Wilhite



From the Director — David Flask

The busy fall season is up and running and the fall event planning is in full swing. Many of these fall events are some of our most beloved and long-running events. Check out the articles in this issue of The Chronicle for details on the County Fair, Halloween events and our annual Christmas celebrations.

I hope you have the opportunity to attend as many of these as possible. Each event offers something different and will give you varied experiences all within the great setting that is Cowtown. Whether you are most excited about

the playfulness of trick-or-treating, the spookiness of a possible haunting at Cowtown, or the authenticity of the County Fair, you will find something happening at Cowtown this season.

It's exciting to see people with a long history at Cowtown rediscovering us and those that have never been here before coming out to experience our magic. The community is supporting us and we are looking forward to continued growth and improvement. Come see us this fall and keep watching us all year long!

Supporting Historic Wichita Cowtown

By Bob Garrett, Membership Committee

Why is being a member of Historic Wichita Cowtown, Inc. important? How are membership funds used? These are valid questions for anyone considering becoming a member.

Historic Wichita Cowtown, Inc. is the organization that receives and administers the membership funds. It is an established non-profit advisory group that raises funds for Old Cowtown Museum. The organization owns the artifact collection of over 10,000 historical items. Funds are used to preserve and maintain the artifact collections as well as support education programs developed and presented by the museum.

The mission of the museum states the following: Old Cowtown Museum is an educational institution dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of Wichita from 1865 to 1880.

Recent completed projects include the Heller Cabin exhibit, the City Marshal's Office, and the Dress Shop.

Another new addition is the Empire Hall Exhibit which changes every two months featuring artifacts from the permanent collection.

Memberships comprise the major portion of Historic Wichita Cowtown funding.

For your membership you will receive annual unlimited visits to Cowtown, including four Signature Events, discounts at the museum gift shop a subscription to The Old Cowtown Chronicle newsletter, a discount when attending the Diamond W Chuckwagon Supper, and special invitations to members-only events.

There is also an intrinsic benefit with your membership: You will know you are contributing to the preservation of our great American heritage which will be passed on to all those who visit Old Cowtown Museum.

Membership information and application forms are available on the web at www.oldcowtown.org/Support/memberships.htm.



THE AGE OF THE GUNFIGHTER RETURNING TO COWTOWN ON AUGUST 14, THIS POPULAR EVENT WAS EXPERTLY PULLED TOGETHER AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY RANDY AND DEBBIE EDENS. NEXT YEAR, COWTOWN HOPES TO HOST A REENACTOR'S GUILD OF AMERICA COMPETITION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AGE OF THE GUNFIGHTER EVENT. THE GUTHRIE GUNFIGHTERS (SHOWN ABOVE) JOINED THE COWTOWN COWBOYS, MISSOURI VIGILANTES AND THE DESPERATE DAY GUNSLINGERS IN PROVIDING ACTION ALL DAY LONG.

MEMBERSHIP FORM



NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

THIS IS A NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL GIFT MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Free admission, including Cowtown events, for one year
- Four issues of the Cowtown Chronicle
- 10% discount in the S.G. Bastian & Sons Mercantile
- 10% discount to Diamond W Chuckwagon Supper

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$30 Basic** — includes free admission for one
- \$45 Companion** — free admission for member plus a guest
- \$55 Family/Grandparent** — free admission for two adults and up to five children under 18
- \$100-\$5,000 Pioneer Society** — various levels and benefits, please call for more information.

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

RETURN WITH CHECK TO:

Historic Wichita Cowtown, Inc.
1865 W. Museum Blvd., Wichita, KS 67203

OR JOIN ONLINE AT WWW.OLDCOWTOWN.ORG

SEE WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON PIONEER SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP.