



Solomon Valley Museum Musings

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Osborne County

Osborne County Museum, Inc -- Osborne

Junction ...US-24 & US-281 -- 785-346-2881 or 785-346-2798

Open from Memorial Day to Labor Day

Museum Musings -- The Osborne County Museum Complex includes the museum building, which was the Santa Fe Railroad Depot, the one-room school building, District No. 1, and a collection of very old (very rusty) farm machinery.

The museum was begun by the Osborne Genealogical and Historical Society. In June 1983 the Society purchased the old depot for \$80.00. It was moved to the present site in August 1984. After many hours of volunteer labor, the building was dedicated with a grand opening on September 21, 1985.

The No. 1 School was given to the Osborne County Museum with the stipulation that it be moved to the museum complex. This was done. Again volunteers were busy with the many things needing to be done as the building had been used to store hay and cattle feed and cattle had been inside the building. After many hours of work, the school house was dedicated with a grand opening on September 9, 1995.

The school district was organized in March 1872. The first building was log with a sod and prairie hay roof. In 1885 a frame building was built, but by 1912 a larger building was ended so the present building was built. School was held from 1872 through the 1960-1961 school term, when the building was closed. During this time four generations of the Chauncey Bliss family attended No. 1 school.

The museum contains a large variety of items, including kitchen ware, china cabinet and dishes, the wooden telephone booth from the Sunflower Inn, clothing, doctor items, telephones, typewriters, Civil War rifles, tools, car tags, potholders, etc. Two of the most recent donations are a "kitchen" clock that was purchased by Charles E. McFadden in 1903 and a stockman's pocket watch which belonged to Ray Towne. There are many old text books in the school house. Some of these were in use when I began my teaching career in this building in the fall of 1952.

Our next project will begin in the spring when a 12' x 12' storage shed will be built, thanks to the McFadden and the Sarver Trust Funds.

The museum, located at 929 N 2nd St, has a seven-member board of directors which meets once a month. Regular hours are Monday through Thursday, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day. Appointments are welcome and may be made by calling 785-346-2798 or, if you come by and want to visit, just call one of the numbers posted in the window.

by Eileen Wilson