

Ralls County Historical Society

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January 2005

RALLS COUNTY MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 182

CENTER MISSOURI 63436

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~morchs/>

**Ralls County Historical Museum and Library
120 East Main Street, Perry Missouri**

Open Saturday 9:00-5:00 Sunday 11:00-4:00, Wednesday 10:00-5:00

Phone 573-565-2025

Dear Ralls County Members and Friends:

January Meeting:

The first meeting for 2005 will be held at the Perry MO city hall 127 East Main Street on Monday, January 17 at 7:00 pm. There will an open house of the enlarged Ralls County Historical Library /Museum across the street at 120/122 East Main Street. The open house will be from 1:00 pm until the meeting.

Dues for 2005:

The 2005 dues are now due. They will remain at \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 for a family membership. Please if possible fill out a membership form or include your address, phone number (optional), e-mail address and family members if you get a family membership. Payments mailed should be sent to Ralls County Historical Society Inc., P. O. Box 182, Center, MO 63436.

November Meeting:

Before the meeting we saw the great results of Maxine Moore and her crew great work at the Center Short Line depot. We would like to have a grand opening in the spring, but more work is needed, so please contact us if you are able to help on this project.

In giving credit for workers and donation on the project I forgot one of the most important donates and I wish to apologize to Fran Watts. She donated the crossing sign that you see though the widow at night as you pass by the depot. Sorry and Thanks Fran.

2005 Calendar of Meetings

March 21

May 16

July 18

September 19 Society Picnic

November 21

We plan to continue to have our meetings at Ralls County points of interest. If you know of any location that we could meet contact us by e-mail, mail, and phone or at a meeting. Also we will likely revisit some of the sites we meet at in the past, if have one you would like to revisit also please contact us. We are also working on having joint meetings with neighbouring societies and this but

cause a date change.

Local Events:

Local historian Steve Chou will present a program at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Hannibal Free Public Library. The title of the program will be "History of Hannibal's Industries."

Chou has written and compiled several history books, including "Hannibal: The Otis Howell Collection," "Hannibal Missouri: Bluff City Memories" and "City of Hannibal: From Riverboats to Ribbons of Concrete," all of which are in the library's collection. For more information, call the Hannibal Free Public Library at (573) 221-0222.

Perry Bank:

Teller windows from the old bank have been donated by???? and will be moved to the bank building at the Perry Park for display

Missouri Civil War Heritage Foundation:

Help is still needed in finding Civil War sites in Ralls County. Please contact us if you know of any site or stories of Civil War events.

Mystery Log Cabin Solved:

In the March 2002 "Newsletter" we spoke of a two-story log cabin which was built by a group of Swedish families south of Perry. It had been bought by George Lewis of Quincy Illinois and moved John Wood Mansion in Quincy a few years ago. Recently I have found that it built by the Peterson family and was located about 3 miles east of Perry.

Recipe Book:

A recipe book is being planned as a fund raiser for our museum and other projects. Please bring your recipes to the meeting, drop them at the museum or mail them to our Center MO address. PO 182, Center Mo 63436

Ralls County Cemetery:

McFarland Cemetery #87 Township 13 Range 56 Section 7

Curd; James A., dead December 24, 1875, age 41 years, 8 months, 8 days

McFarland; Harriett, born 15, 1819 @ Pike County Missouri, died 1906, married Walter

McFarland, daughter of Enoch Jane Matson (information from "Old Settlers" Biography #21

Mc Farland; Walter, born February 12, 1812, died December 1, 1872

McFarland; Walter, born March 31, 1860, died March 17, 1912

McFarland; William, (no stone is said to be buried here by unnamed great-granddaughter

McFarland, W. H., born October 12, 1842, died September 20, 1915

Bit of Ralls County History:

New London "Times?" July 12, 1912

See The Man Bird

One of the great features of the exhibitions at the Ralls county fair will be the opportunity that the people who visit the big fair will have demonstrations in the Hanger Tent of the Moisant 70 H. P. Mono-Plane, the monster flying machine that will give exhibitions of flying at the New London fair this year. Flights will be given twice a day and before and after each of these flights the machine will be brought from the infield of the fair grounds where the flights take place to the tent and demonstrated by taking off the warning wings, removing the powerful motors, showing the controls, elevators, rudders, and the hundred and one technical parts of these air craft. So few people are familiar with the working of these great machines that this should prove to be a great crowd getter. The Aviators are positively guaranteed to be the largest and best company in the United States. Their activities have carried them

all over the world, and they hold records that no other aviators have ever had nerve or ability to secure. One of the great exhibition flyers who will be seen manipulating the Moisant Mono-Plane at the Ralls County on the days of July 23, 24, 25 & 26 Mr. Harold Kantner, is a very clever Aviator and considered one of the most daring of all the bird men in the country. There is no stunt—dive, dip, whirl, ascension or speed trail that he will not attempt. He is the only man representing the Volo-plane display with a Mono-Plane and this is said to out thrill all the thrillers in the aviation line, to be the nearest approach that man has ever attained to the graceful bird. All the exhibitions presented by the Moisants are said to be the last word in Aviation endeavor. It costs the fair association 50 percent more to secure those people than any other company of Aviators would cost. The Moisant people draw sometimes as high as 25,000 people in one to see their flights with nothing else to witness. At the Ralls county fair this is an added attraction and besides the great stock exhibitions, the high-class shows and the great races these aero plane flights will be witnessed without any extra charges and it looks like the people were going to have the greatest time and the best attraction ever presented in the section. As these features cost a world of money to produce and the New London Fair Association are assuming the expense everybody should come in to the big fair where they can receive amusement, education, have a good time and see all there is late and costly in the amusement world, so don't forget the big fair, the Moisant Aviator and the combined attractions at New London's Big Fair held on the dates of July 23, 24, 25, & 26
New London "Times?" August 2, 1912

The Ralls County Fair

The Ralls county Fair last week was the most successful ever held since the association was organized. The attendance was larger by far than was ever known. The attractions were more numerous, there was more fine stock of all kinds and the races, taken as a whole, were better. There were more concessions on the ground this year than all the previous years combined. Some of them were of a shady character, but looking at it from all angles, these evils, it seems, must of necessity follow fairs. As one man put it—"you can't run a fair as you would a Sunday school picnic." The really great attraction this year was the big monoplane in which Harold Kantner, the bird man, made a fight each day. It was, to almost every person who attended the fair, a new and novel sight to see a man flying around in a machine that remained one of a great bird. A few words about this monoplane will not be out of place. The big machine resembles a huge wasp. It is 28 feet long and its wings, which are covered with fine sailcloth and a preparation of rubber, extend for 30 feet on either side of the body. The motor and propeller blade are located in front in the front of the machine and immediately behind is located two large tanks, one contained gasoline, which runs the motor, the other castor oil, which keeps the cylinders well oiled. The front of the huge wings is rigid but the rear is so arranged that they can be moved up and down by the operator. He also regulates, by means of wires, the rudder in the tail of the big machine. The entire outfit, which weighs 750 pounds, is mounted on two wheels which are directly under the body of the machine. The machine does not have to be pushed along in order to start, but as soon as one man cranks the machine it gets busy and it requires four men to hold it in check until the engine gains sufficient velocity.

The first start he made—in fact all the starts he made—remained one of an old goose preparing to sail off. The machine would run along the ground for a hundred or so yards and then mount toward the sky as gracefully as any bird you ever saw. It seemed to those who saw the bird man fly that he made better flights each day—the last being the best of all. Kantner earned all the money he was paid.

The success of the fair, in a large measure, was due to those having charge of affairs. Had every person in the county taken a fourth as much interest in the fair as the officers and directors did no fair in the state would have been as successful.

In this connection Superintendent Modisett of the Short Line is entitled to the thanks of all for the excellent manner in which he handled the people on his line. Special trains were run, trains were held hours a time all for the accommodation of those attending the fair. Mr. Modisett is a prince of good men, and was there every day to supervise the work.