

Home of the only round town square in Kansas

THE BLUE RAPIDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Ice Age Monument dedicated

Glaciers sculpted the terrain of Marshall County both coming and going. The last ice sheet over 10,000 years ago bulldozed down from the north carrying boulders and splinters and vegetative matter, some of which decayed and some of which still stands as markers of the ice flow's inexorable power. When it retreated, ice melt scoured the land to form its current waterways and gently-rounded ridges and folds of the northernmost edge of the Flint Hills.

Northeast Kansas is called "the glaciated region" for a reason, and now, in what might well be the only monument of its kind, an Ice Age Monument tells the story of how the region was formed.

The monument's dedication was held May 19, with opening remarks by Professor George Callison, formerly of Blue Rapids.

"Today has been a very long time in coming—over 10,000 years, in fact," Callison said. "We are all extremely lucky to be here. Think about it: we are all descendants of survivors of the Ice Age! We owe them a debt of gratitude. We stand on their shoulders as well as the shoulders of all who have helped us to be who we are." (Con't page 2)



Museum open every Saturday morning 9:00 - 12:00

For an appointment any other time please call 785-363-7949

Don't be shy, we love to share our history and collections.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR 2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!



EXHIBITS

Homesteading: *May 1 to August 31*

BR businesses: *September 1 to December 31*

EVENTS

June 30: *Whistle Stops Along CB Rails*

October 14: *Voices of the Past, Fairmont Cemetery*

November 10: *Veterans Day Parade and soup lunch*

November-December: *Orphan Train exhibit*

Ice Age Monument dedication (con't)

Blue Rapids was chosen to host the monument due to its natural resources which were directly related to the glacier's passage, Callison said.

"The namesake rapids on the Blue River that were harnessed to power early industries, the sand and gravel deposits used for construction and roads, and the rich soils for agriculture are all here because of the Ice Age glaciers," he said. "Our Ice Age Monument in Blue Rapids honors this ancient geological heritage."

The monument consists of four pylons, three with inscriptions telling the story of the glaciers and of glacial erratics—Sioux quartzite boulders brought down from southwestern Minnesota. The boulders formed over 1.5 billion years ago, making them the oldest rocks in Kansas. Several boulders are placed around the pylons, including a small strand climbing the tallest pylon, which rises 16 feet above Fountain Park.

Guest speakers included Rex Buchanan, interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey; Marci Penner, director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation; Becky Blake, director of Kansas Travel and Tourism; and Pat Osborne, president of the Blue Rapids Historical Society.

The dedication ceremony was enlivened by three spear-carrying cave girls dressed in "authentic"

cave-girl outfits—Zoe, Mattie and Skyler Saunders, daughters of Sue Saunders.

As impressive as the monument looks, nighttime gives it an ethereal aura that has to be experienced. The inscriptions are bathed in soft white spots and the two major pylons glow in a soft glacial-blue luminance.

"Let this be a place where you can let your curiosity run free, a place where you can imagine times of very long ago, and a place where you can think about what tomorrow or what a 100,000 tomorrows might bring," Callison said.

"Let's celebrate curiosity, imagination, creativity, and accomplishment.

"Let's celebrate the Ice Age and let's celebrate being here, together, in Blue Rapids . . .today!"



Above: Skyler Saunders, one of three cavegirls roaming the grounds during the dedication, created prehistoric art for several lucky participants.

Below: Professor George Callison at the Ice Age Monument dedication



Ice Age Monument dedication (con't)

Clockwise from top: Cave girl Zoe Saunders; Prof. George Callison with a bottle of Serac Glacial Milk, water “so rare it’s no longer called water” bottled from the Carbon Glacier on Washington’s Mount Ranier; Rex Buchanan, interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey; Prof. George Callison with Ryan and Michael Bailey of Bailey Construction.



Without the participation of others we are nothing.

DONATIONS DONATIONS DONATIONS

Thanks to many of you, our storage room is overflowing. We have received more than 60 donations thus far this year. We are pushing to get the new donation storage room finished in the back so we can reorganize and move our donations there.

The following donations were accepted: Vic Stanley, postcards originally sold at his store; City of BR, videos inside old water tower; Valley Heights HS, memorabilia (They have been around 45 years...that's history!); Jerry Yungeberg, items found while metal detecting behind Colonial Hall; Nancy Nolte, Big Dam Foolishness notebook; Don Ubben, hard copies of Prospect Hill cemetery records; Melody Sedivy, civil defense survival crackers from GP mine; Kathy Crawford, BR advertising pencils; Ms Co Hist, 1906 Irving phone book; Barb Genschorck, letters from her dad while he was working for WPA; Linda McGinness, indexed birth/death records for BR from 1911 to 1967, Irving 1914 to 1947, and calling card from Fred W. Genung (know him?); VFW, various military items;

Eugene Dice, photos of stone homestead; Dale Harris, Our Environment textbook; City of BR, 1925 water ordinances; Wanda Milliken, 1937 BR annual, 1939 50th class reunion; Helen Johnston, postcard of State Bank, card from Gwen Morgan, photo of Elsie Borck in Santa mask; Rebekah Lodge, FLT sign, records; Nancy Nolte, reference book with Thomas Hart Benton; Everett Spunaugle, I.O.O.F. Grand Lodge record books 1858-2010 and bookcase for same; Lions Club, pins, caps, awards, anniv. book; Don Musil, 1922 and 1954 BRHS annuals, Tues. Afternoon Club gavel, memory book for Harmon G. Reynolds, news of Gwen Morgan; Jon Gunn, BR pens, sad iron; Hedy Saville, old BRHS/GS photos, Bestwall photos, 1948? BR senior trip and "new" bridge photos, BR baseball team; Georgena Lindquist, Diamond D hat, Daisy Creem keychain; Virginia Sutton, 22 ceramic BRHS football players; Jim Mayhew to Lori Parker, 1918 letter from State Bank, Stanleys grocery receipt; Brent Boyle,

pulleys for hay; Leona Nelson, photos of unidentified women; Matt Fuller, Kansas maps; Ann Walter, large letters B&R; Pat Osborne, photo of Rotarians; VFW, pulpit from St. Marks and popcorn popper;

Kate Dobrovolny, Alcove Springs postcards, bank deposit box; BR Fire Dept, bentwood chair from old city clerk's office; Mark Lamoreaux, B.R. Centennial items; Carolyn Walker, Whiteway Club quilt from 1930s; Jane Coggins, asst. wedding photos; Joyce Haxton, BR Centennial queen crown, '62 class ring, 1962 baseball info, Betty Crocker trophy info; Don DeShazer, 11 cast iron BRHS football players of 1953; Connie Nugent, 1918 "What the Bohemian National Alliance Stands For" article, 1980 reprint of 1900s photo Czech band; Nancy Nolte, misc. + Miss Anna Laura Hill book; Harry Johnston, plaster figures; Jon Gunn, Rotary Club banner; Richard Spunaugle, three plaster football figures, BR football jersey, church books; 1st Baptist Church, church history;

Larry Claycamp, textbooks, Czech Presby hymnal, 1927 KFNF hymnal; Pam Bulson, 1879 math book, decor items; Nels Hicks, class of '39 in 3rd grade, photos of Fawn Creek school and old BR fountain; Dorothy Hula, articles from Vaclar Havel, Czechoslovakia; BR Library, 1951 Baccalaureate program, 1948-51 photos BRHS phys ed; Connie Bowen, photo 1923 BRGS, Mildred Hays items and photos, Ada Bickell's autograph book, BR coffee mugs; Ivan Hula, W.H. Boughner, BR metal coin good for \$1.00 in merchandise; Ron Mayhew, The Wall, Vietnam Commem. Book; Joe Warders, Warders Farm Center baseball uniform; Barb Genschorck, seven photos of BR flood 1913; Georgena Lindquist, copy of 1900 Church of Christ, Irving postcard; Mitch Land, misc. papers, envelope from BR Gravel Co, 1937 Social Security Card; Bev Edwards Estate, Don Edwards Navy uniform WWII, Blue Valley Cafe banks, template for Baptist Church plates, bill of sale of BR Sales Co. at Fairgrounds.

THE BLUE RAPIDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 5

The 2nd annual Czech festival, April 28, 2012



Kolaches, music, food, crafts, dancing and a special visit from the Cuba Czech community rounded out a bigger, better Czech festival. Special events included genealogical research conducted by Jan Wilkes, translations by Dr. Glenn Lojka, Prague travelogue by Alice King, and train rides across the Big Blue River.



Members new and renewed

New lifetime members since the last newsletter are Delores Sutton, Everett Spunaugle, Ruth C. Martin, Elton Thomas Spunaugle, Janice M. Petet, John Nowak, Frances Elder, Norman Dederick and Jan Wilkes.

Members paying their 2012 dues are Dave Pratt, Kay Pratt, Frederick Stauffer, Mary Stryker, Helen Johnston, Carlene Shipp, Onna Marie Lemkuhl, Barbara Mathis, Gerri Caffery, Col. W.H. Davenport, Howard Miller, Greg Ubben, Helen Miller, Susan Ubben, June White, Jim Wilson and Marge Wilson.

We are very delighted to have three new young and enthusiastic BRHISSOC Board Members:

Donna Fuller originally agreed just to type the donations we receive into the computer; she is half Czech so she helped with the festival; she has a degree from a Floral Design school, all skills we can use so we asked her to join the Board. She has worked for Kansas Gas in Marysville for 23 years.

Sue Saunders is a tech writer for Landoll Corp. in Marysville but lives in Blue Rapids with her three daughters who have performed as cave girls for the Ice Age dedication, Rosie the Riveters, Spirits from the Past and as orphan girls. Her artistic eye and back-ground in architectural design are going to be invaluable to the museum.

Nolan Sump worked for the Clay Co. Museum while in college and was encouraged to become a living history performer. His current specialties are in the area of agricultural history as an 1880 German farmer and a 1930 Dust Bowl Farmer. His wife, Monica, is also a living history performer and has provided us with period clothes for our current homesteading exhibit. Nolan is a K-12 gifted facilitator and paraprofessional for USD 364 special education cooperative.

Current display an homage to the pioneers who settled the area

Celebrating 150 years since the original homesteading act is a tribute to our local farmers who have been able to hold on to their land through difficulties.

We have several sets of original homesteading papers including those for William A. Ewing in Wells Township, S.B. Steele southwest of Waterville and George M. Morse. We have a piece of the Steele's old barn showing the pin/peg construction and their surveying wheel. We also have a picture of August Carlson who was two when his family homesteaded in Bigelow Township. Museum items include the Petr sewing machine patented 1872; Winkenwader sod buster plow, Borck homemade bedstead made from a tree on the farm; and Wm. Burr's miniature model plow for his business.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership dues of \$5 for 2012 are now due. Please use the form below and send payment to Helen Johnston, 503 Gypsum St., Blue Rapids, KS 66411. You may pay additional years or donate extra if desired. Lifetime membership is \$100.

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Blue Rapids Historical Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____