

# THE MUSEUM MESSENGER

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT-

### RAY ROTHGEB

Donna and I just got back from a wonderful European trip. We spent time with exchange students that had stayed with us in past years, and visited some of the most prestigious museums and historical sites in Munich, Zurich, Florence and Rome, as well as a number of lesser sites. I noted how similar the little museum in Wallisellen, Switzerland was to ours, many stories and artifacts from the Appenzeller region of the country. I was thrilled to find a 1928 photo of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century home of Hans Jacob Rothgeb (the first Rothgeb to come to America). Little museums can harbor great gems! IHMAC has so much to offer!

I'm excited about the opportunity to complete the elevator project next

year. If all goes well, and all pledges are met, the project could be done and paid for by the time we host the Kansas Museum Association meeting in November 2018. Much has to be done by then. Displays need to be reviewed and new displays constructed. Some room displays will need to be reorganized or relocated. This will take a tremendous amount of work! It is my hope that you, the members, will step forward and lend a hand. This IS your museum. Activities are being planned for the remaining of the year, so take note and participate. As a member, you have the privilege of attending most of these for free. I promise to stay close and be of greater assistance to IHMAC this year. Europe was exciting, but so too is Independence. It's good to be Home!

## ELEVATE THE MUSEUM PROGRESS – RAY ROTHGEB

Contributions to the ‘Elevate the Museum’ project continue to come in closing the gap on funds needed to start the elevator. It is my hope that within the next few months we will be consulting with the architect to begin the elevator portion of Phase III of the project.

Recent contributions that are moving us forward have come from the United States Department of Agriculture, Quality Toyota/Motors, Toyota Foundation and Wal-Mart. The USDA informed the Museum that it has approved a \$35,000 Rural Development grant to be used to help purchase the elevator. Quality Motors/Toyota and Toyota Foundation contributed \$5000 and \$2000 was received from Wal-Mart. Needless to say, the museum is grateful for the grants and the support of local business. These contributions have put us within \$20,000 of having enough cash and pledges to begin the Elevator portion. Another \$80,000 is still needed to finish the attic storage.

Throughout this process the museum membership has been, and continues to be an integral part of the project. Your continued support and encouragement are important for its successful completion. Of vital importance is pledged money. Over \$42,000 is still out in pledges. It is our hope that 100% of those pledges will be received. Take pride in what is being done as much as being accomplished.

## ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

Because of several vendors request from last year, the annual Arts & Crafts Fair has extended hours for this year. It is scheduled for Dec. 1, 1:00 to 6:00 PM and Dec. 2, 8:00 AM to 4 PM. Registration forms have been sent to vendors and several already returned. It looks like it is going to be another successful event. To assure that success, volunteers are needed to help plan and assist in any way possible. A planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 5 at 10:00 AM at the Museum. If you can help in any way, from making phone calls to helping the day of the event or providing something for the lunch or bake sale, please attend this meeting. Many hands make less work for everyone.

## ROOM CHAIRS/INVENTORY

The room chairs and members of the Board meet almost once a month for a “work day” at the Museum. During this time, special projects needing attention are addressed. Examples being: cleaning, rearranging exhibits, working on signage and stories, reviewing recent items brought to the Museum, or assessing current inventory. Joy Barta is the chair of this committee. Managing the inventory is an ongoing process and an important aspect of the Museum. Besides the monthly work days, Joy is at the Museum on Thursdays addressing the inventory. Anyone who has interest and would like to help with the inventory is welcome to come to the Museum on Thursdays and assist in this process. Whether you can come for only an hour or two or spend the day, the help would be appreciated. This is your Museum so let’s make it the showcase of Independence.

## WISH LIST

NEW MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS,  
VOLUNTEERS AND MORE  
VOLUNTEERS

COFFEE

GALLON TEA BAGS

DISH TOWELS

COOKIES FOR THE  
COOKIE JAR

2 – 13 GALLON OVAL  
TRASH CANS

## The Oak Ridge Boys “Christmas Celebration Tour 2017 – Mike Flood

The legendary Oak Ridge Boys will make their way back to their adopted home of Independence, Kansas as part of their “Christmas Celebration Tour 2017.” The Boys have performed in Independence many times over the years because their long-time manager Jim Halsey is from Independence, but this will be their first ever Christmas concert here. The quintessential country group will perform at Historic Memorial Hall on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. The concert will include a collection of their country music hits, traditional Christmas favorites, spectacular Christmas sets designed especially for the tour and even Santa Claus! The concert will benefit two local non-profit organizations: The Astra Arts Festival & The Independence Historical Museum & Art Center.

The Oak Ridge Boys Christmas concerts are as legendary as the group. About this time of year for many years they have presented their Christmas tour in venues across the country, eventually leading them back home to Nashville for Christmas. Recently Mr. Halsey realized they had never presented this show in Independence, the place where it all began for him and the Oak Ridge Boys back in 1975. He then offered the award-winning Christmas concert to his home town. What a special Christmas gift for Independence!

The Oak Ridge Boys are excited to come home to Independence for a Christmas Celebration Tour concert. “It’s always like coming home for us. We look forward to seeing all of our fans, friends and adopted family members when we play Memorial Hall. It will be a big celebration for all of us,” the Oaks’ lead singer Duane Allen said.

Advance online ticket sales and seating selection will be available through [Http://www.astrafest.org](http://www.astrafest.org) and <http://www.ihmac.org> starting September 27<sup>th</sup> and will run through November 19<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will also be available to purchase at the Independence Historical Museum & Art Center at 123 N. 8<sup>th</sup>, Independence, Kansas starting Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased over the phone at (620) 330-3795 during business hours. For more information visit the web sites listed above. Tickets will also be available the day of the concert at Memorial Hall beginning at 2:00 p.m. until concert time.



### TICKET PRICES

\$49.95  
\$44.95  
\$29.95

### CALL

620-330-3795  
FOR MORE  
DETAILS

## OCTOBER LUNCHEON

Program:  
NEEWOLLAH  
Installation of Board Members

Menu:  
Chili & Vegetable Soup  
Relish Tray  
Cake

Please make your reservations by  
Noon on October 11.

## November Luncheon

Wilma Andrews – Chair  
Turkey Noodle Casserole  
Mashed Potatoes  
Salad  
Pumpkin Dessert

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## December Luncheon

- Chair  
Beef Stroganoff  
Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Cook's Choice for Dessert

### Historical Research Center – Kirsten Webster

Twelve individuals contributed to our one mile sale on Sept. 8 & 9. The sale brought in \$352 to help pay for our subscription to ancestry library. This online source provides lots of information about past census taking, families and siblings, location of graves, addresses and draft records. Thank you to each and everyone who contributed items for the sale. We hope we may be of assistance to you as you trace your families in the past.

We also had a donation of three four-drawer file cabinets which has let us reorganize and file past records of three local funeral homes. We have also worked into our shelves the detailed records of the War of Rebellion (Civil War). We are still developing an index to locate family plots at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Come in and see our changes as we do have a new look when you walk in the door. We are located on the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> & Myrtle, across the street east of the Museum. Our telephone number is 620-779-0496, our e-mail is [IndyHRC@gmail.com](mailto:IndyHRC@gmail.com) and we are open Tuesday – Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. We can provide help with a good group of volunteers who want to assist you.

### NEW MEMBERS

Chris & Deb Moore  
Newton's True Value  
Patty Riffe

Membership cards are ready to pick up  
in the office if you have paid your dues.  
Call the office to check.

