

Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation President's Annual Report 2017

Our Mission: "to preserve, restore, protect, and maintain the historic structure in Waynesville, Missouri known as the 'Old Stagecoach Stop' in order to permit its educational value to be appreciated by future generations; to engage in educational and charitable activities related to the 'Old Stagecoach Stop'."

From the Route 66 Missouri Tourism tour in January to the celebration of Christmas on the Square in December, people have been enriched through experiencing the unique history of our Old Stagecoach Stop Museum in downtown Waynesville, MO. Our Mission, as stated above continues to delight and amaze people from all over the country and all over the world. With over 1500 visitors throughout the year, we feel extremely privileged to share this most historic place with so many people. We have had visitors from 31 states plus from Germany, Canada, Indonesia, Lebanon, Greece, Jordan, Lithuania, and India – truly remarkable for our little town. We participate in various community events including Freedom Fest in June, Old Settlers Day in July, Oktoberfest in October, and Christmas on the Square in December.

In addition, we have had many groups who requested special tours, such as Route 66 Missouri Tourism, the Legends Bank tour, a Lifestyle group from Indiana, bloggers Theresa and Jim Goodrich who included us in their Route 66 travels while researching for their book, "Two Lane Gems, Vol. 1," and a Chamber of Commerce Leadership Group. We were chosen as the Legendary Stop for the Route 66 Challenge Run where we shared some of our very special postcards from the early 1900's, which were sent to Amanda Black by visitors who enjoyed their stay here when it was named the Black Hotel. We also received special requests from families who were here for a military graduation. One family from Colorado especially enjoyed the rich history we shared and a family from Florida came back after growing up here in the '90s to relive some fond memories of their time here. It's those special sharing times that make our volunteer time so enjoyable.

We were featured in *Missouri Life* on KMOS, KETC, and PBS on October 11, 2017. Terry Primas, while sitting in the Old Stagecoach Stop was interviewed in the special video about Route 66 in Pulaski County. You can experience this very interesting video here: <https://video.kmos.org/video/3005579219> We were also given special acclaim in the Spring, 2017 *Sho Me Route 66 Magazine*.

Old Settlers Day which was again organized by the Pulaski County Museum brought special visits from "President Abraham Lincoln," "General Ulysses S. Grant", and "General Philip Sheridan." Civil War Re-enactors provided demonstrations in the city park where they staged several battles throughout the day. These activities, in addition to the regular vendors and booths, brought many visitors to the Old Stagecoach Stop. Special thanks to David Chuber for his very interesting demonstration of Civil War medicine. And special thanks to the Bell Motel for providing a special shuttle to and from the city park activities.

Christmas on the Square provided the most visitors to the Old Stagecoach Stop during the year. Counting the cups used as people stream through the Stop for the Christmas cookies, breads, sandwiches, hot coffee, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider provided by Board members, we had over

600 visitors during that one evening alone. The warm fireplaces and the dulcimer music by one of our Board members and her friends helped to make it a memorable evening.

We had the two known images of Waynesville during the Civil War reproduced on two 16x20 inch canvases. The two representations are a pen/ink drawing by Major Waldemar Fischer in 1863 and an oil painting by an artist named Leuteritz produced in 1864. Previously, these images were displayed as 8x10 inch black and white graphics in the Civil War Room. The larger canvases provide better viewing and the painting is in color. It is very difficult to pinpoint the Old Stagecoach Stop in these drawings, so Mark Zurbrick devised a laser pointer mounted on the wall and turned on by a switch to help visitors identify the OSS in the color picture. Ingenious!

We have had a number of recent donations to the Old Stagecoach Stop. Bob Dodds, the first president of the OSS, donated a water keg or cask and a small wood-burning stove. The water kegs or casks were stored below the wagons of the Civil War Union Field Ambulances. These were built with brass bung holes and side spigots as standard equipment. The small cast-iron wood-burning stove was produced by the Great Western Stove Company in the late 1930's or early 1940's. These stoves are prized by antique collectors and there are no replacement stove parts available. Virgie Mahon donated a beautiful cane bottom pressed back chair which belonged to her grandmother. Judy Woody donated an amber oil lamp, a pewter oil lamp, a copper stern light, a wrought iron candle holder, a straight blade razor, and a cast iron ice shaver with the label "THE A.C. WILLIAMS CO RAVENNA O." in raised letters. The implement is 6.5 inches long and 2 inches wide. Ice shavers were used to scrape off ice shavings from a large ice block for use in beverages and desserts. The A. C. Williams Company originally manufactured cast iron sad irons and hardware items. The company, founded in 1844, relocated to Ravenna, Ohio from Chagrin Falls, Ohio in 1892 when the original foundry burned. During the first three decades of the 20th century, the company began manufacturing cast iron toys and still banks. The ice shaver is probably from this period. Judy also donated an antique sad iron likewise labeled with the company's name.

The Old Stagecoach Stop Museum was open every Saturday from April through September. In addition to special group tours, we also had seven - 4th grade classes for special tours for a total of 194 students and teachers.

The Old Stagecoach Stop will be open on December 3rd to host the dignitaries on the stage at the climax of the Waynesville Christmas Parade. The parade starts at 2:00 at the Waynesville Middle School. We will also be open on December 7th for Christmas on the Square in downtown Waynesville from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. There will be hot drinks and lots of food for the many people who pass through to warm up and get a few snacks.

Be on the lookout for Terry Primas' new book, *Route 66 in Pulaski County, MO – a local history*. The book includes over 400 pictures and maps. In fact, stop by on December 3rd for the parade or on December 7th for Christmas on the Square and you might be able to acquire an autographed copy.

Due to the age of the Old Stagecoach Stop building, various maintenance issues always need attention. We are thoroughly enjoying the fireplace systems in the cabin and tavern, but one of them is needing repair and we are waiting on the manufacturer to provide help with that. These fireplace systems were purchased through a donation from Louise Morgan, an original OSS Board member. We are grateful to our newest Board member, Mark Zurbrick who has been performing various needed repairs, including fixing a window in the McNeese building which had been broken by a tree limb, getting rid of the anachronistic letter slot on the front door of the tavern, stabilizing the banister out front, and replacing

frayed wires on the electrified lamps in the 1918-era kitchen. We truly appreciate his efforts in these areas. Other maintenance issues include winterizing, tree trimming, and mowing. We are very appreciative of the efforts of the CBRN Advanced Leadership Class who raked, cleaned gutters, washed windows, and cleaned up trash in the back yard of the OSS. Problems still to be solved include the leaking between the roof and the gutter and some flashing repairs in this area.

Spring brought out the hardy ad sales team (aka OSS Board members) for the *Old Settlers Gazette*, our annual historical edition of past and present news of Pulaski County. After months of intensive writing and editing by Terry and Jan Primas, the free *Gazettes* are delivered to advertisers and locations around the county and also mailed to patrons throughout the U.S. The entire profit from this project goes to the continued restoration and maintenance of our historic building. A special thank-you to all of the other volunteers who make this and all of the Stagecoach Stop activities an on-going preservation of history for this community.

The Old Stagecoach Stop website, oldstagecoachstop.org continues our mission of preserving the history of the Stop and surrounding area. It includes historic pictures, archives of all the *Old Settlers Gazettes*, and a rich source for research of our county. Visit our page at [facebook.com/Old Stagecoach Stop](https://facebook.com/OldStagecoachStop).

As we look back on 2017, we reflect on the great privilege of continuing the goals established by the Founders of this most historic Old Stagecoach Stop. We are proud to be situated along Route 66 which is bringing many travelers who are touring the "Mother Road" from Chicago to Santa Monica to revisit this era of American history. We are thankful that so many people from our area, from around the country, and from around the world have visited and enjoyed this history preserved for us and for future generations.