

Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation

President's Annual Report 2020

Nov. 2019 to Oct. 2020

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'."

Last year I started my Annual Report with, "We have enjoyed another exciting and eventful year" Well, this year has certainly been "eventful," but not exactly "exciting!" We were very saddened to make the difficult decision to not open our beloved museum for the 2020 season given the impossibility of providing a safe environment for our volunteers and visitors.

We are especially sad that we will not be able to provide our huge table of goodies and drinks for the 2020 annual Christmas on the Square, our most popular event of the year. That event was wonderfully enjoyed in December of 2019, with more than 600 people passing through our doors. Our 1915 kitchen full of Christmas cookies, breads, sandwiches, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and hot coffee provided by Old Stagecoach Stop board members, coupled with warm fireplaces and dulcimer music by board member, Pam Barnabee, helped to make it a memorable evening. We have served drinks and food at Christmas on the Square since it began in 1997.

However, not being able to be open for the 2020 season certainly did not mean we were idle all year! Some important things did happen this year in spite of the closure.

~ In spite of unexpected challenges, we were able to publish and distribute the annual Old Settlers Gazette throughout the community and beyond for the enjoyment of our faithful advertisers and readers. This meant finding new and creative ways to make this venture possible. A huge thanks to our able volunteers and to all of our advertisers who themselves were often struggling to keep their small businesses open, but who were still generously supportive of our efforts. Thanks to Jan and Terry Primas's deft typing and layout skills, the Gazette was published and distributed on time!

~ In 2019, the front of the Stagecoach Stop got a much needed facelift with new paint. This summer, we contracted with Townsend Painting of Waynesville to scrape, repair, and paint the other three sides. As you can see, it was sorely needed and has made a tremendous difference in the appearance of our cherished museum. There was a significant amount of rotted boards, especially around the windows, which needed to be replaced.



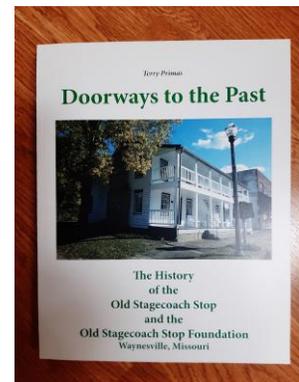
The work began in October and was completed the following month. A combination of many unexpected repairs, difficulty getting materials, and inclement weather made it a challenging project. We are thrilled with the final look and hope that it will impress and please local citizens and visitors alike.

~ The storage room north of the Dentist Room inside the Stagecoach Stop was reorganized and decluttered with old shelves being removed, walls and ceiling patched and painted, and new custom-built shelving installed. It now holds all office, cleaning, and maintenance supplies, along with food service supplies associated with Christmas on the Square, materials that were previously located throughout the OSS. It is a beautiful sight to behold! Thank you, Mark Zurbrick.

~ Leakage was found in the water system under the sink cabinet in the Kitchen that had caused some rotting of the floor and joists. All was repaired or replaced and a new water heater and associated pipes and valves were installed. Several fittings in the second floor bathroom also needed repair. The gutters were cleaned and the exterior front, sidewalk, and donation bricks were all power washed.

~ Additions to the OSS displays included an oak framed slate and chalk to show period prices of food and drink in the Tavern Room, a set of reproduction 1860's period scissors, and an 1850-1860's period work dress for the knock down wardrobe in the McDonald Room.

~ The much awaited Old Stagecoach Stop history by Terry Primas, **Doorways to the Past – The Story of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation**, is now available. The first half of the book features the first double-pen log cabin built by William Walton McDonald for his stagecoach business, the Union Army takeover of the building for a Civil War Hospital, the long list of owners turning it into a hotel and then apartments, to the condemnation of the building by the City of Waynesville. The second half features the formation of the foundation to save the building, the many fund-raisers to buy and restore the building to turn it into a museum, and the current activities and tours to share this history with the public. We are excited to now be able to also share this amazing history in book form. It features 348 pages and more than 300 images. The cost is \$45 plus \$6.00 postage. Contact Terry Primas at tprimas@mac.com to purchase a copy.



In Memorium

MSG (Ret.) Philip Bolduc – July 7, 1945 – March 28, 2020. Phil, age 74, of Dixon, MO, passed away Saturday, March 28, 2020, in his home near Dixon, MO. He was a dedicated Old Stagecoach Stop board member for 14 years. We mourn his passing and send our sympathy to his wife, Joy and his family.

Our website, www.oldstagecoachstop.org continues our mission of preserving the history of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the surrounding area. It includes historic pictures, archives of all the *Old Settlers Gazettes*, and podcasts with past residents telling stories from the “old days,” including Dru Pippin, Jaretta Laughlin, Robert Lee Bates, Pearl Brown Wilson, Louise Skaggs, Jiggs & Dorothy Miller, and Irene Mitchell Morgan.

Another new feature on our website is a virtual tour where visitors can start a guided tour or click on a map of the building and explore each room, floor by floor. Terry Primas spent many hours taking pictures, processing historic images, and laying out and revising the new web pages. With assistance from his wife, Jan, the virtual tour was completed and now provides an enjoyable journey for visitors. The website is a rich source for research of our county.

Also, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OldStagecoachStop where Jan Primas posts many lovely pictures of the Stagecoach Stop as well as short stories or articles from yesteryear.

As we look back on 2020, we reflect on the challenges of this most unusual year and are grateful for the great privilege of continuing to meet the goals established by the founders of this historic site. We are thankful that so many people from our area, from around the country, and from around the world have visited and enjoyed our museum, faithfully preserved for future generations. We are looking forward to 2021 and hope to again open the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum as in past years -- traditionally every Saturday from April through September, plus numerous special events.