

Fall, 2020

# OSS NEWS

Issue #55

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## Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation

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Our Vision -

"to preserve its educational value for future generations."

Visit our website:  
[www.oldstagecoachstop.org](http://www.oldstagecoachstop.org)

### 2020 – A Year to Remember

As we reflect on the last 8 months, we feel a great sadness that we were not able to share our wonderful Old Stagecoach Stop history with our friends, near and far this season. It has certainly been a time to consider our many blessings in spite of being so limited in our travels and activities. We still enjoy the greatest freedoms in the world – freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear – as outlined by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941. May we never forget, even when things aren't exactly to our liking, we are blessed and still have much for which to be thankful.

The **Vision** of the **Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation**, as noted on our website is "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."

We want to express our thanks to all of our ADVERTISERS in the annual *Old Settlers Gazette* –

**ISSUE 38 of the *Old Settlers Gazette*** was delivered to our advertisers on July 20 & 21, 2020. This is a group effort, led by our author/editor **Terry Primas**. The board does the difficult job of ad sales and delivery. The entire proceeds are put back into the building, allowing us to make improvements and maintain the building. If you did not get a copy, you can request one at [tprimas@mac.com](mailto:tprimas@mac.com) and we will mail you an issue. We appreciate all of the businesses and individuals who placed an ad in the Gazette, especially during this difficult time for small businesses. If you would like to place an ad next year for your business or as an individual, please contact one of the board members as soon as possible.

### ..... SAVE THE DATE:

Dec. 3 – **Christmas on the Square** is being celebrated from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The Old Stagecoach Stop will not be open this year due to the impossibility of providing safe food or social distancing.

# Special Memory of the Old Stagecoach Stop,

written by a former LEAP student, Joey Maguire

In Celebration of Janet Sue Rich Primas's birthday, and being one of the VERY fortunate early students, historians, and excavators of the site. I pulled together some memories of what it was like being a kid (around 12-13 years of age if my math is reasonably correct) being involved in such a project...

Of the Old Stagecoach Stop project, I remember...

The sounds... Gentle groans of decades old floorboards, the occasional subtle shift as new explorers rediscovered it, but also this ethereal ghost-like song of feet that had been treading there since the 1800's. The musician in me, still hears them like a subtle composition, that sometimes, if you stopped to listen made a sort of sense.

The smell of the place, an unexpectedly welcoming smell, but much like the wallpaper, layered with age and memories. The smell of dust, light decay, wood, earth and air... such an oddly comforting, but also hollow smell. As if a smell could be open and fragile, and be, as our sense of smell is, a space to place memories and hold them.

The sight of the layers and generations of wallpaper, eaten away by insects except where the dyes were poisonous resulting in intricate, beautiful patterns caused by decay. The angles in the bones of the place, that through years of shifting no longer quite made sense, and even gave you the slight thrill of fear that the place might not hold under your weight... though reason told you it had lasted this long, and it had more strength in its bones left to offer.

The feel, that the spirit of those who lived, guested, worked, saved, and yes, died in that space had left a mark that could never be erased. Call them ghosts, call them echoes, call them the very spirit of the place. But you could feel the desire of whatever you may choose to call them, longing for their stories to be rediscovered and told.

And of course, the space beneath with many time telling treasures, but also the accumulation of detritus that didn't have a story to tell. Modern garbage that made its way below... an errant Doritos bag, a cigarette butt... But a treasure trove of items we unearthed that pieced together the fascinating history.

And below, and the mild claustrophobia it created in you, in a place where our smaller kids' bodies could fit below in the moist, cool dirt... getting filthy... some of us embracing that aspect more than others.

Beyond all of those sensations, the feeling that we were doing something important... and everlasting. And that we, as mere babes, had been given a gift that many people in their whole lives would never experience. An opportunity to connect in a completely tactile way with history... not just stories in books but objects you could see, feel, smell and form a personal relationship with. YOU found this thing, this tool, this object, even this bone, and now... it belongs to you in some way, and conversely, you also belong to it.

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COPIES of the 1906 Map of Pulaski County which hangs in our 1915 kitchen are still available for \$10 each. This map hung in Gene Farnham's office for many years. We will also have copies of the Civil War in the Ozarks map in color for \$15. This map can be seen in the Civil War room at the Old Stagecoach Stop.

# SPOTLIGHT ~~~~~

- Special artifacts at the Old Stagecoach Stop -

By Pam Barnabee

## Have You Lost Your Marbles??

I'm referring, of course, to the game of marbles that I played when I was a kid. If you're around my age (we won't go into details here), you probably played it, too. You don't see it much these days, though I have it on reliable authority that marbles video games do exist.

Marbles games have been enjoyed by children and adults alike, around the globe, for thousands of years. Archaeologists have unearthed marbles from Egyptian tombs, European caves, prehistoric pueblos in the southwestern U.S.... and from underneath the Old Stagecoach Stop. We like to tell visitors that one of the former owners of the Stop (1890 - 1894), J. L. Johnson, was a Pulaski County prosecuting attorney, state representative, and, based on an item in the Pulaski County Democrat in 1902, a local marbles champ. Coincidentally, another 1902 newspaper item concerning a game of marbles is recounted in the 2002 issue of the Old Settlers Gazette. The challenger was a prospective bridegroom, W. L. York, and his opponent was Pulaski County Circuit Clerk G. W. Gan. The game was to consist of three series of three games each, each series to be played on a separate day, the last one on the day before Mr. York was to be wed. The wager? If Mr. York won, Mr. Gan would issue his marriage license for free; but if Mr. Gan won, no license would be issued and the wedding would have to be postponed. On the first day, Mr. Gan won the series. Mr. York was victorious on the second. On the third day, each man won a game and the third was in a tie - it all came down to the last shot.

What was the outcome? Some said Mr. York won, as the marriage license was issued and the wedding took place the following morning. Others said Mr. Gan won, but a "group of concerned citizens" prevailed upon him to issue the license anyway. I'm wondering what the bride thought of all this!

Marbles have been commercially produced for centuries. The earliest were made of stone (hence the name "marbles"), beginning in the 1600s, in England and Holland. By the early 1700s almost all stone marbles were produced in Germany. Due to competition from glass, porcelain, and clay marbles, production of stone marbles started to decline in the 1870s and ended in 1915. Marbles made of baked clay spheres appeared on the scene in the late 19th century. Samuel C. Dyke patented a process for mass manufacture of clay marbles and opened a factory in Akron, Ohio, in 1884. The company employed about 350 workers and produced a million marbles a day. This was the first toy ever to be mass-produced, and the price of marbles dropped dramatically, so that any child with a penny could purchase a handful of marbles. This was undoubtedly a factor in their popularity. Germany began commercial production of hand-made glass marbles in the mid-1800s. Pieces were twisted and cut from a glass rod; then the two points where they had been attached were ground smooth. In 1903, M.F. Christensen, who had previously patented a machine that produced perfectly round steel ball bearings, applied the same principles to the manufacture of glass balls and opened a factory, also in Akron, Ohio. By 1920, the U.S. had become the primary producer of glass marbles, and the decades of the 1920s and 1930s are considered the "golden age" of marbles when competition among manufacturers made marbles cheap and plentiful. Today, there are still two companies in

the U.S. producing marbles; however, ninety percent of marbles are now manufactured in Mexico.



Most of the dozen-or-so marbles on display in the Artifacts Room at the Old Stagecoach Stop are made of clay ("commies" in marbles slang, because they're so common). This was the type of marble J. L. Johnson would have played with in 1902. Though there are a growing number of vintage marble collectors, clay marbles aren't in high demand. The most sought-after are handmade glass marbles, select non-glass marbles (mainly porcelain), and American machine-made marbles produced before 1960. The larger "shooter" marbles fetch the highest prices. Check your attics and basements: some shooters have sold for thousands of dollars.

Another element that surely influenced the popularity of marbles was the nature of the game. There were no "official" rules; the rules were whatever the players agreed to. Setup was easy and quick. Play was organized and refereed by the players themselves. There were many types and variations of games. The game I remember playing is called ring taw ("taw" being slang for a shooter marble - larger than the target or "mibs" marbles). Two players (minimum) each put the same number of mibs inside a ring. (My brother and I made a ring, about three feet in diameter, with string,

on the living room floor; but traditionally it would have been drawn in the dirt.) Each player, in turn, uses their taw to try to knock their opponent's marbles out of the ring. In a game of "keepsies", also called "playing for keeps", you get to keep those marbles. In a game of "friendlies", you give them back. (I would cry if my brother tried to take my marbles - "winners keepers, losers weepers" quite literally! - so he was forced to play "friendlies" when we played.)

Marbles may be past their heyday, but they're not forever lost. In the U.S., the National Marbles Tournament has been held in Wildwood, New Jersey, every year since 1922 (with pauses in 1944-45 due to World War II and this year for COVID-19). The British and World Marbles Championship takes place annually on Good Friday in Tinsley Green, England, and has been around since 1588. So "knuckle down" (one knuckle of the shooting hand must remain firmly on the ground while shooting), you "mibsters" (marbles players), and play on!



## ON BOARD

The Old Stagecoach Stop is the oldest publicly accessible building in Pulaski County. Who owns the museum? If you're a member of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation, you're one of the owners. The Old Stagecoach Stop Board has nine directors that conduct the business of the museum. Those same nine people make up the majority of the volunteers who keep the building open on Saturdays, April thru September and for special tours and events. Without their dedication, there would be no Old Stagecoach Stop House Museum.

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**Old Settlers Day**, organized by **The Pulaski County Museum and Historical Society** was held on July 25 & 26, 2020 with 1862 Civil War reenactments at the park. Music was provided by the Back Porch Players, including a Civil War era service with period music on Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the park. Other activities included Civil War & Kickapoo Trace Muzzle Loaders camps, a YMCA Duck Race, night fire and artillery show. Special guests were “President Lincoln” and “General Grant.” Living History demonstrations, weapons and artillery inspections, crafters, and food vendors were also enjoyed by all.

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### **Old Stagecoach Stop Activity**

There are two ways to keep abreast of the Foundation’s activities. We have a website and a Facebook page that are active and have current news/events. The website also has the current and all past issues of the *Old Settlers Gazette* available for reading/research.

[www.oldstagecoachstop.org](http://www.oldstagecoachstop.org)

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### **Podcasts: A New Feature on the Website**

Tune in to hear Dru Pippin, Jaretta Laughlin, Robert Lee Bates, Pearl Wilson, Louise & Argus Skaggs, and Jiggs & Dorothy Miller tell stories from the “old days!”

Our Facebook page is listed as: Old Stagecoach Stop Museum and Foundation or go to [Facebook.com/oldstagecoachstop](https://www.facebook.com/oldstagecoachstop) if you do not have a Facebook page.

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## **View from the Balcony**

### **Jeanie Porter, President**

It has been a very “memorable” (some good, some bad) year. We will someday say, “Remember 2020?” We were all very sad that we could not be open this year to share our rich history with friends, near and far. The time was not lost, however, as noted in the following report on accomplishments at the Stop as submitted by Mark Zurbrick:

**Storage Room Renovation** In an attempt to reorganize and “de-clutter”, all the old shelving from the non-public storage room north of the Dentist Room was removed. The walls and ceiling were patched and repainted and new custom-built shelving was installed along with a new cabinet to enclose the TV in the McDonald Room. This renovation increased storage shelving space more than fifty percent. All office, cleaning, and maintenance supplies, along with food service supplies associated with Christmas on the Square, special event signage and support materials, that were located throughout the OSS are now in this room. The renovation cost approximately \$170 in materials and 70 hours of donated labor.

**McDonald Room TV Framing** The framing for the TV and Old OSS sign located behind the “back door” in the McDonald Room was replaced.

**Water System Improvements** After providing hot water to the entire building for more than twenty years, the electric tank heater located under the sink cabinet in the Kitchen failed when the water was turned on this



spring. Upon closer inspection, it was discovered that the tank and associated plumbing had been slowly leaking for some time and had rotted some of the supporting floor and joists. The joists were reinforced and new flooring placed in the cabinet, followed by installing a new hot water heater and associated CPVC fill and drain pipes and valves. In doing this work, expectantly found that several fittings in the second floor bathroom also leaked. They too were re-cemented. This project cost approximately \$370 in materials and 30 hours of donated labor.

**Routine Exterior Maintenance** This spring the gutters were cleaned. This is usually done twice a year. While the public was not able to visit the inside of the Old Stagecoach Stop, we kept the exterior facing the square clean and bright with a thorough power washing. The sidewalk and donation bricks were also power washed and all weeds in the cracks were sprayed and subsequently removed. This project was completed in half a day.

**Repair and Repainting of Exterior** The Old Stagecoach Stop's exterior has received a coat of paint three times over the past 35 years, with the most recent painting occurring in 2007. In 2019, volunteers repaired and repainted the front (west side) of the Old Stagecoach Stop. However, given accessibility limitations (20 foot high walls and the need for special equipment and expertise), it was decided that the remaining three sides of the building needed to be repaired and repainted by a professional.



Bids were sought in late summer and work began on October 1.

(Project is ongoing at the time of this writing - expect to be finished by Oct 15, weather permitting. Please drive by sometime this fall to see our new look!)

### **Displays**

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 a 1850-1860s period work dress for the knock down wardrobe in the McDonald Room. All pieces were donated with a total value of about \$100.

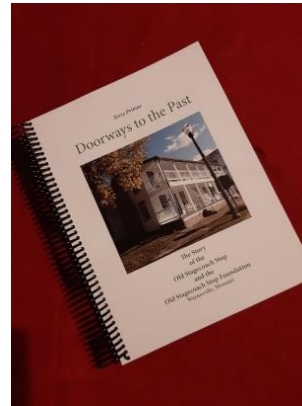
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The OSS no longer holds an Annual Meeting of the Foundation membership. The **Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation Annual Report** is available on our website in November.

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MSG (Ret.) Philip Bolduc -  
Jul 7, 1945 - Mar 28, 2020  
MSG (Ret.) Philip Bolduc,  
age 74, of Dixon, MO, passed  
away Saturday, March 28,  
2020, in his home, near  
Dixon, MO. Phil 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.

the building to turn it into a museum,  
and the current activities of tours to  
provide this history to the public. It is  
available in one complete book only at  
this time. We are excited to be able to  
share this wonderful history in book  
form. Contact Terry Primas at  
[tprimas@mac.com](mailto:tprimas@mac.com) to purchase a copy.



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If you haven't already done so, we  
encourage you to visit the **Trail of  
Tears Exhibit** in Laughlin Park in  
downtown Waynesville. This site on  
the National Historic Trail  
commemorates the encampment of  
the Cherokee Indians as they were  
forced to move along the infamous  
"Trail of Tears" in 1837 and 1839.

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**Doorways to the Past – The Story of  
the Old Stagecoach Stop and the Old  
Stagecoach Stop Foundation** by  
Terry Primas 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

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**Sho-Me Pest Control** treated the OSS  
on January 16, 2020 - gratis. The OSS  
was treated all around and under the  
building for termites. The interior of  
the OSS and the McNeese building  
were treated for spiders, etc. The  
technician, Jordon Breedlove, took  
three hours to make the thorough  
application. He has joined that select  
group of people who have crawled  
under the antebellum building.

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**Membership** Please remember to  
renew your membership. The form  
you need is included on the back page  
of this newsletter. We need the  
support and interest of the community  
to continue our mission. Questions  
about your membership status - email  
[pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com)

## Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation Membership Application

The work of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation is supported by memberships and donations. We invite you to join the Foundation at any one of the membership categories listed below.

Complete this form and mail to:

Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation, P.O. Box 585, Waynesville, MO 65583

Please make checks payable to Old Stagecoach Stop.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

*You may use my email address for:  
(please check all that apply)*

☐ *special event announcements*  
☐ *OSS Newsletter*  
☐ *membership renewal notice*

### Level of Membership:

☐ Individual \$10

☐ Family \$15

☐ Patron \$25

☐ \*Sponsor \$100

☐ \*Life \$250

\* Sponsor and Life members will be recognized in the Old Settlers Gazette. However, if you prefer to remain anonymous, please check here \_\_\_\_.

\*\* Questions about your membership status - email [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com)

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