

Jefferson County Historical Society Newsletter

Oskaloosa, Kansas

October 2020

Coming Soon! ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the JCHS will be held on Sunday, November 8 at 2 pm in Edmonds Chapel. Leo Oliva will be speaking on the topic, "Railroaded: The Industry That Shaped Kansas." Please observe social distancing and wear a mask. See also

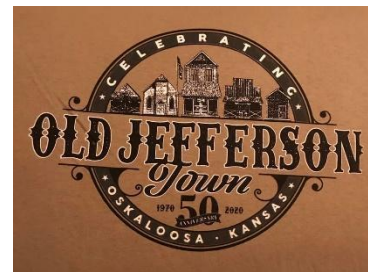
<https://www.humanitieskansas.org/get-involved/request-speaker/leo-e-oliva-railroaded-the-industry-that-shaped-kansas>

What a CRAZY year this has been so far! The museum was closed throughout May and June, as well as from mid-September through the end of the season due to Covid-19 concerns.



The Tractor Drive on August 29th was a HUGE success this year. Attendance was much larger than in past years – we think just because people were glad to get out and be social in an outdoor setting. There were 105 meals served, with some of the menu items in short supply when the end of the line was reached. There were 32 tractor drivers who participated, at least 2 ATVs and one carload of those unable to climb onto a tractor. In addition we had 5 stationary engines, a few antique cars, one antique truck, one antique lawn mower, one collector pedal tractor and

several tractors that exhibited on the grounds. 49 sponsors contributed to this event, with a total profit of \$9615, directed to roof repairs on the library and completion of boardwalk repairs. We greatly appreciate each one.



In conjunction with the Tractor Drive, t-shirts were ordered with a custom logo and sponsors names on the back. 130 t-shirts were ordered for exhibitors, tractor drivers and individual purchasers.



The Farmers' Market on the museum grounds on Saturday mornings from July 4 -

September 5 was an extremely popular event organized by Mary Luse. Vendors displayed their wares at no charge, but often donated some portion of their profits to the Historical Society. Attendance at the museum increased because of the proximity of the Farmers Market. Mary plans to host the Market again next summer.



Even though the museum was not open to the public, repairs and improvements still occurred.

On April 19, the drainage tube on the road leading to the Nincehelter House and Wellman School was replaced by David Tenpenny and Lance Hoover. The old culvert was placed before 1970, when dirt work was done in preparation for moving buildings onto the property. It was completely rotted and urgently needed replacement before it completely collapsed.

On April 28th a new porch at the Reynolds Building was completed. The funding for this project was donated by FreeState Electric Operation Round-Up. The boardwalk lumber was donated by EVERGY, and the repairs were completed by Chess, LLC.

The roof on the library building was replaced in June 2020. Mary Luse was instrumental in fundraising for this project to be completed. The false fronts of the building still need to be replaced. The back side was completed in October, with work on the front side pending. Next year, the Curry House is

targeted to receive new shingles.

The main breaker in the library building had to be replaced in mid-June by electrician, Randy Schwinn.

After purchasing a couple loads of rock for the newly replaced drainage tube, we were the fortunate recipients of asphalt millings from US Highway 59 re-paving project during the summer. Then in August we obtained additional loads of millings from the Dollar General parking lot re-paving project. David Tenpenny was instrumental in getting those spread around where needed.

The decorative shingles near the top of Reynolds Building were replaced on July 16, and the squirrels are now denied access!

The map sign blew down in a January 2020 windstorm. The map components have been nicely framed and hung on the railings of the Reynolds building, thanks to Larry Elinton and Tom Foxworthy.

A window was replaced in the Nincehelter House after the wind blew it out. Daryl Chess completed this project in August.

A new garage door was installed on the library building on September 15. The new door is weather tight and should help prevent bugs and critters from accessing the basement.

One of the next projects will be repair of the Dunkard Church (aka Church of the Brethren) bell hanging in the bell tower. The wheel that allows the bell to be rung is made of wood. The wooden parts have deteriorated, shrunk and fallen out of place, so the



wheel will need to be replaced.

Deb Case, Margaret Dick and Mary Luse have been diligently working in the library building, reorganizing the

storage area, making storage more efficient and access to stored artifacts easier. Leanne Chapman and Marilyn Sharkey have been working on accessioning a backlog of donated items.

50 YEARS AT OLD JEFFERSON TOWN

The first buildings were moved to Old Jefferson Town in December 1970. First to arrive was the Reynolds Building (the former Osborn Feed Store in McLouth) on December 7, quickly followed that week by the Wellman School and the Edmonds Chapel. Fifty years have ensued of saving historic buildings, preserving records and artifacts related to Jefferson County. Only with the help of the community will Jefferson County Historical Society continue to function as a vital part of Jefferson County history. You will want to be sure to come in and take a look at the display created by Ardie Grimes depicting "50 Years at Old Jefferson Town."

New JCHS Website

Deb Case has created a new website for the historical society at <https://www.oldjeffersontown.com/> and a new email address, oldjefftown@gmail.com

You can also find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2553681212>

[54017/](#)

Ardie Grimes, JCHS Newsletter editor