

Heartland Museum



Hidden Gems

This month's hidden gem is our collection of horse drawn buggies and wagons. We have over 30 restored vehicles - come pick your favorite! Horse drawn wagons, carriages, sleighs, cutters were once the only land transportation in the USA. Then came the railroads, and within 50 years of that, automobiles. Our collection dates mostly from the late 1800's to early 1900's. There tends to be something romantic now about a horse drawn vehicle - especially carriages. Some cities, such as Memphis TN, offer carriage rides thru their historic districts. Other companies rent our for weddings and other events.

Carriage manufactures set up in the larger cities first, and were quite prolific. Even Sears & Roebuck sold carriages! There is still a large industry devoted to carriages and other horse drawn equipment - everything from making carriages, to leather work, to museums, and even learning to properly drive. If you want to learn more about carriages, there is the Carriage Association of America, based in Lexington Kentucky.





Back in the Day

Whatever happened to:

Bowery dances? Have you ever heard of one? Well, "bowery" is a Dutch word for farm. In New York City, the Bowery was a street, and then a neighborhood. The dances were often outside - under trees, on the streets. At some park dances, the band would start up and park employees would go out into the crowd and get a dance partner. From

1870 thru 1930's the Wright County Monitor mentioned "bowery" dances held at irregular intervals. They appeared to be especially designed for the young people. This also reminds us of barn dances, which used to be common when a new barn was built!

Box socials? 1900-1930 saw many box socials (or suppers) listed in the Wright Co. Monitor. These were usually fundraisers for a group. A supper was prepared by a woman (often a single lady), and put in a box, or basket, perhaps decorated. These lovely items were then auctioned off and the highest bidder got the supper and the company of the lady who prepared the supper! Now, bright young ladies with a beau would sneak some information to her young man about what her box looked like, so the young man could win the bid. Needless to say, a woman who could make a delicious meal, widely known in the community, had very active bidding!

Chautauqua assemblies? "Chautauqua" is an Iroquois word with multiple meanings, one is "two moccasins tied together." The word also describes the shape of Chautauqua Lake, located in southwest New York, which became the setting for Chautauqua Institution, the first educational assembly in what became a significant movement at the turn of the 20th Century. What started as a summer school for Sunday school teachers, broadened into adult education of all kinds. Assemblies were held close by from 1890-1920's.



Chautauqua - early 1900's - Goldfield.

Meet our horse with no name! With funds from the Wright Co. Historical Society, this sorrel fiberglass horse was purchased and now resides in our Outdoor Learning Center. We have not named him as of yet - and are running a contest to name him! Winner gets 2 tickets to Heartland. Stop by, take a look and come up with a clever name.



FREE EVENT - JUNE 18TH 1PM - 4 PM
Dr. Hill has donated a fiberglass horse and
display items to go with the Garland cutter he donated
earlier.
Refreshments-games-education, all about horses!



Meet Blue's Trainer June 18th. 1-4pm Heartland Museum



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