

Telephone (402) 766-3700

NEWSLETTER

Website: www.visitodell.com

History

of

the

Center

The Old West Trails Center sits on the corner of Main and Ida in downtown Odell. The 22 foot x 30 foot building was constructed of locally quarried limestone for J.D. Myers, president of The First Commercial Bank. That business ended in 1893 and later State Bank of Odell used the building from 1907 to 1928. Other uses of the building may have been a fire hall, a newspaper office and a garage.

The building fell into disrepair over the years and citizens of the village looked for ways to fund a renovation. The Odell Community Foundation was organized in 1993 and over a 12-year period \$7,500 was raised to repair the roof and to have the stones tuck-pointed.

In October of 2003, The Village of Odell applied for a Transportation Enhancement grant through the Nebraska Department of Roads. The \$104,160.00 grant was designated for the renovation of the building as a transportation center, an appropriate focus since Odell has a rich transportation history. The railroad played a major role in why the town was built where it is now; near the former route of the Oregon Trail and Oketo Cut-Off of the Overland Stage line.

Diller Telephone owned the limestone bank building and the lot on which it stood for a time. It was deeded to the Village of Odell along with enough property to build an 18 foot x 17 foot wooden addition to the west. It connected to the main limestone structure much like the banker's residence had years before.

The village advertised for bids in April of 2005 for the construction of The Southeast Nebraska Old West Trails and Transportation Center, since shortened to The Old West Trails Center. Marvin Webb and Company Architects, Inc. of Grand Island created the concept drawings and Five-Star Contracting won the bid

for general renovation. Wrightsman Plumbing and Plymouth Electric also worked on the project.

Grant funds were delayed for over six months due to administration changes in the Department of Roads but as those funds became available, work began. Construction started in the fall of 2005 and an open house was held September 10, 2006 to celebrate completion of that phase of the project.

The original grant writer's estimated the project would cost \$130,200.00. Since that time the price tag has increased to nearly \$245,000.00. This increase however reflects additional monies needed for artifacts, mural, computers and other items to furnish the inside of the building. Those funds were raised through grants and donations from organizations and individuals. The grand opening was on September 30th 2007.

Major contributors to the project have been: The Nebraska Department of Roads; The Ethel Abbott Foundation; Martha and Margaret Thomas; Rose and William Sapp; The Gage County Visitor's Committee; The Odell Consignment Sale Committee; State Bank of Odell; The Gene Stanosheck Family; The Sandman Family Trust; Beatrice Concrete; W.A. Scully; The Swanson, Biggs, Adams Foundation; The Gage County Foundation; Wal-Mart; Pinnacle Bank; Norris Public Power; The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad; The Leigh Coffin Foundation; Shirley Coffey and The Odell Community Foundation.

A board of six individuals, under the direction of the Odell Village Board is in charge of most aspects of The Center. These trustees are Marilyn Lytle, Judy Baumann, Rick Masek, Dave Anderson and Larry and Robin Stanosheck.



The mission of The Old West Trails Center is preservation of area transportation history and local history. The mission statement might read "preservation, education and inspiration", according to curriculum director Robin Stanosheck. "We hope to appeal to history buffs of all ages through a variety of special music and history programs. We also can boast a learning center with history-related computer games and "learning-boxes".

Also at The Center, visitors can pick up information about area historical sites and museums as part of a networking project which encourages tourism in southeast Nebraska and northeast Kansas.

The focal point of The Center is 100 feet of "transportation-related" interior murals done by Waverly artist, Dave Reiser.

Visitors are encouraged to arrange a tour by calling any of the following numbers: 402-766-3720, 766-3725, 766-4237; or 766-4275. Group tours are also given.

Trustee officers are

Marilyn Lytle – President
Robin Stanosheck – V.P.
Judy Baumann – Secretary/Treasurer

Article by Robin Stanosheck

Individual Highlights

2007 Schedule 2

2008 Schedule 2

Parade 3

Krider Hill 3

Visitors 3

Family Histories 4

Awards 4

Friends 5

1st

Year

Events

- Songs of the Pioneers/Jam Session
- Jerry Meyer/Indian Flute/Laureen Riedesel – Talk on the Otoe Indians
- Dulcimer Club/Presentation on Old West Trails
- Grand Opening/Toasted Ponies/Parade/Community Days
- Quilts/Chat with Local Historians
- Annual Craft Fair Day with “Music for the Seasons” at the Center by area musicians.

2nd

Year

Events

- Wheat Braiding
 - Dale Colgrove on the Otoe Indians
 - Mathew “Sitting Bear” Jones – The Forgotten Nebraskans sponsored by the Nebr. Humanities and the Hevelone Foundation
 - “The Pony Express Rider” Movie and popcorn
 - Wee Brazen Hussies sponsored by the Hevelone Foundation
 - Legend of Krider Hill
 - Old Fashioned Spelling Bee/Homemade ice-cream
 - Stories of the American West
 - A Musical Journey Across America – Chris Sayre brought to you by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Hevelone Foundation
- Upcoming Events**
- August 10 – Songs of the trails and railroad era
 - August 24th - Pioneer Crafts – Cornhusk Dolls
 - September 7th -1st Anniversary celebration – Toasted Ponies/Community Days – Sponsored by grants from the Nebr. Arts Council and The Hevelone Foundation
 - Sept. 21st – 2-3 p.m. The Cosgrove String Quartet
 - October 26th - Walking and Driving Tour of Area Historical Attractions
 - November 29th - Annual Odell Craft Fair, with “Songs of the Season” at the Center



Remember the Parade

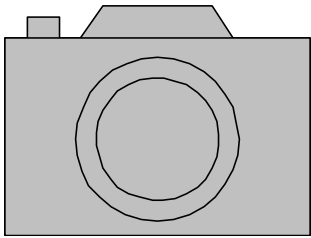
An interdenominational church service started the day in the park with Rev. Faye Hubbard arriving in a horse and buggy and performing the service. Music was played on an old fashioned pump organ. Our Grand Opening was topped off with a parade featuring different modes of transportation such as a stagecoach, covered wagon, Mormon Handcart, horse and buggy, Surrey, Conestoga Wagon, Dray Wagon, Weasel and army truck, race car, fire truck and semis. Also in the parade were village dignitaries, floats, veterans, dancers, cheerleaders, brownies, daisies and clowns - totaling 38 units. Despite the windy day, a good time was had by all. A buffalo BBQ was served in the Community Hall with the Toasted Ponies entertaining with their bluegrass music. The Toasted Ponies were made possible through a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council.

The main speaker for the event was Kay Threlkeld from OCTA, Kent Wilson spoke on Ben Holladay and the Oketo Cutoff. Laureen Reidesel presented the Old West Trails Center with a Heritage Presentation Award from the Gage County Historical Preservation Society. Dave Anderson served as MC. Rick Masek performed a song he had written.

Where's the Parade?

The History of Krider Hill will be covered in a later newsletter.

Krider Hill



On May 25, 2008 OWTC had a program on Krider Hill which was given by members of the Colgrove family. In April, the Friends secured a grant from the Gage County Foundation which enabled them to purchase a video camera. This was just in time for the Krider Hill program. Angela Zarybnicky was the photographer and she put together a video of the program given by the Colgrove men on the history of Krider Hill. Angela won a purple ribbon at the Gage County Fair for this DVD and it will be going to the State Fair. CONGRATULATIONS – ANGELA. The Krider Hill DVD will be on sale at the Center for \$10.00.

Visitors to the Center

An estimated 1700 to 2000 people has visited the Center since the beginning of construction to present day. The farthest distance travelled is

from London England. There have been people from approximately 20 states.

We also have given many group tours to

organizations and families. Please contact Marilyn (766-4275) or Judy (766-4237) if you would like a tour.

Family Histories

Marilyn Lytle has been in charge of putting together family histories to be stored and accessed at the Center. At present the following family histories are available for viewing:

- ❖ Boeck
- ❖ Lepoidevin/Martin
- ❖ Carstens
- ❖ Lepoldevin/Zugmeier
- ❖ Callan
- ❖ Zugmier/Homersham
- ❖ Colgrove
- ❖ Rockemann
- ❖ Hajek
- ❖ Shebek & Kostal
- ❖ Masek
- ❖ Stanosheck
- ❖ Vitosh
- ❖ Duis

Coming in our quarterly Newsletters

Our upcoming quarterly newsletters will cover the transportation mural in the Center. It will start with the first subject – the Otoe Indian riding on his horse with a history lesson. During the following newsletters the rest of the modes of transportation and subjects will be covered.

Come and check out our books we have for sale or loan. There are several DVD's for sale – The Grand Opening and Krider Hill. We also have postcards for sale

There are excerpts about the following families:

Beran	Klaus
Blackwood	Weiner
Gerdes	Zarybnicky

Also history of the Lorenz Meat Market

Bessie Tincher's Autobiography – "The First 100 years, Almost"

Wm. Hajek's Diary

We are also looking for family histories and stories about the first families to settle what were once the Oto Indian Reservation lands. Please contact Marilyn at 766-4275 if you have a history you would like to share.

**OWTC received the
Heritage Preservation award
from the Gage County
Historical Preservation
Society on Sept. 2007**

OWTC has been
named to the
National Register
of Historic Places
on Nov. 15, 2007.

Friends Of The Center

The Friends of the Center was formed in January of 2008. At the present we have approximately 30 members and 5 Benefactors. The Friends meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Center at 7 p.m. The Friends group was formed to assist the trustees in the running of the Center. The Center is open each 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month from 12:30 to 3:30. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays we usually have a program or event from 1-3. See the OWTC website for particulars. (www.visitodell.com)

The officers for The Friends are M. Smith, President; Dave Anderson, Vice President; Secretary, Judy Baumann, and Fay Shalla as Treasurer.

The Friends had a garage sale during Odell Garage Sale Days. We netted \$37.00.

Would you like to be a Friend of the Center?

You may join our group by attending our meetings and/or paying dues which are \$10.00 for one person, and \$20.00 for a family.

We welcome new ideas and any assistance you may want to give us.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS THAT HAVE KEPT THE CENTER OPEN, PERFORMED MAINTENANCE, CLEANING, YARD WORK, MAINTAINED THE FLOWER BED, DONE RESEARCH, WORKED ON THE COMPUTERS AND OTHER ODD JOBS. YOU ARE WHAT KEEP US GOING!!!!



Old West Trails Center
P.O. Box 169
301 Main Street
Odell, NE 68415

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.visitodell.com
or email
trailscenter@diodecom.net