

grundy county museum opens Monday May 27th with the "made in Grundy county" exhibit

News

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Posted on : 2013/5/24 6:00:00

Calling it a "time machine," Phil Schlarb discussed the Grundy County Museum during yesterday's meeting of the Trenton Rotary Club.

Schlarb said the museum, military annex, and a one room school help to present information on Grundy county history, traditions, and citizens. He explained museum properties should be considered as a tourist destination, drawing people to Trenton.

Schlarb, who's the board president, described the museum as a "partner in education" saying it's a teaching tool by fostering inter-generational conversations among kids and adults.

On Monday, Memorial Day, the Grundy county museum will open for the five-month season. The main attraction for the first ten weeks is called "Made in Grundy County."

It chronicles manufacturing and entrepreneurship encompassing 175-plus years. The time periods are pioneer days (1830's to 1860's); the industrial revolution (1870 to 1940); and the modern era since 1940. This continues an annual trend with the museum showcasing local exhibits that began in 2010 with the Smithsonian New Harmonies music exhibit.

In 2011, the museum featured Coca Cola memorabilia and Grundy county medical history. Last year, it was railroading and the Civil War.

Some of the items museum visitors can see starting Monday during "Made in Grundy County" include Veach saddles, a hunting blind from Coon Manufacturing, cooling modules at Modine, products from Trenton Foods and Trenton Coca Cola, knives by Carl LeBlanc, along with photographs, biographies, videos, and more.

Schlarb also displayed some bricks including one from the Thompson House when it was built back in 1833.

The second half of the summer features the theme "Grown in Grundy County." Schlarb said this includes, from August 24th to October 27th, a salute to agriculture, coinciding with this year's theme of the 29th Missouri Day Festival, "Honoring Our Agriculture Heritage."

Schlarb also promoted a unique display at the museum: a wooden dug out canoe. He told about an expanded military exhibit retaining many of the Civil War items from last year; improvements to the railroad caboose; children's and heritage exhibits and the one-room Baker school house which now has a new flag pole. It'll be the site of a Memorial Day flag-raising ceremony and rifle salute.

The museum is operated by a 20 member, all volunteer, board representing the Grundy County Historical Society. One of the members, Gary Black, said volunteers willing to spend part of a Saturday or Sunday as a docent may contact Linda Overton to get on the schedule.

In answering a question, Schlarb said one source of revenue is from admission to the museum which is two dollars per adult. Some revenue is received from interest earned on investments. Schlarb said the museum relies on donations noting the historical society has a 501 C-3 tax deductible designation.

Schlarb recognized the Hoover Foundation of Trenton for a 29-hundred dollar grant that helped complete a couple projects. Nearly 40 years ago (1974) Bert and Rose Hoover donated the building

at Mable and Tinsman to the historical society. The museum was dedicated in the bi-centennial year of 1976.

According to Schlarb, the museum now averages about 12 hundred admissions per year.

Extended hours Monday May 27th are 10 to 5.

Regular hours on Saturdays, Sundays, and other holidays will be from 2 to 5 o'clock. Admission is \$2 per adult; free to children under 13 years old and for active military service members and their families. Learn more at the [Grundy County Museum](#) website.