

April – June 2012

~ Historical Times ~

A publication of the Fenton Historical Society
WHERE THE PAST AND THE PRESENT MEET



Tables may be reserved for parties of 6 or 8, so hurry to secure your places now!

2012 ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON Saturday, April 28th

At the newly renovated Sunset Lakes Banquet Center; 13366 West Watson Road, Sunset Hills, MO

A Quilt Raffle will be held for a Queen size quilt with earth tone color fabrics, two pillow shams and a dust ruffle. \$1 per ticket or \$5 for a pack of 6 tickets

Get ready to bid, bid, bid at the Silent Auction. Some of the items to be auctioned off are a nights stay at the Drury Inn, a massage, Cardinal tickets, oil change, gift cards, wine, flags, a variety of themed “baskets” and much, much more.

Joan Komlos, will once again entertain us with her extensive knowledge of antiques with her “Antique Appraisals” (2 antique appraisals per person)

Members are asked to bring a dessert to top off our delicious lunch.

Doors open 11:30 AM - Lunch served 12:30 PM

Tickets are \$17.50

A wonderful deal for the great meal, enjoyable atmosphere for visiting.

RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE BY FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH

For tickets call:

636-326-0808 or 636-343-1699

NEW “Judy Finck” Greeting Cards available for purchase; Card depicting a Fenton neighbor, the Valley Park Elevator and Hardware store, circa 1876

Swantner House Spring Cleaning



George Luebbers is chairing a committee of "Spring Cleaners" who are sprucing up the museum. A new coat of paint really brightens up the rooms. The photo display boards are being repaired making way for a new batch of historic photos to be viewed. The glass cases, historic items and photo display boards have been re-arranged too.

Come on by and check it out for yourself.

Thanks George and to all your "Spring Cleaners" too!

If you would like to join the "Spring Cleaners" give George a call at 636-326-0808.

FHS Officers

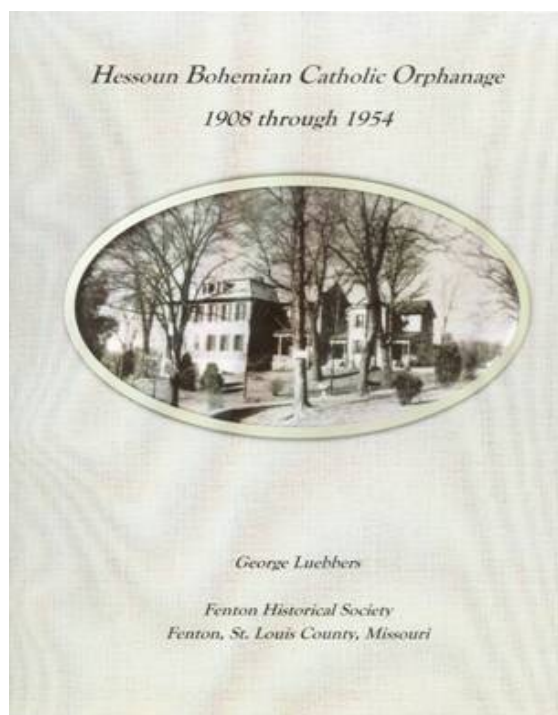
President - Nancy Confer

Secretary - Mary Mick

Treasurer - George Luebbers

Directors: Margaret Chott (12) / Patty Hunt (13)
Marlin Mackley (14)

The Hessoun Bohemian Catholic Orphanage Book



A historical look at the Hessoun Bohemian Orphanage that once stood in Fenton Missouri, from 1908 until the time of their closure in 1954; including the 1970 fire.

The museum has the books for sale for \$25.00 and can be shipped to you for an extra \$10.00. Either call the museum or email the organization for more info.

Fun Fenton Historical Fact:**THREE AIRPORTS FOR FENTON**

Weiss, Sylvan Beach, and Meramac Airports, all in very close proximity on this 1948 Sectional Chart.

Weiss was described as having a 1,300' unpaved runway - mighty short!

The Greater St. Louis Parachute Club was formed in May 1957 and was located at Weiss Airport.

Weiss Airport was listed among active airports in the 1962 AOPA Airport Directory by which point the runway had been paved and extended to 3,200', and the operator listed as Midwest Aviation.

A 1994 aerial view

In 1994, the community markedly raised the property taxes and the airport was forced to close. This airport closure is a very sore spot among local St Louis pilots. It was the only airport convenient to the Southwest side of St. Louis.



By 1996, a large industrial building was built over the center of the former airport, and numerous other buildings now cover the entire property, with no trace remaining at all of the former airport.



❖❖ **ANNUAL MEETING** ❖❖
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012

In addition to our regular business meeting, members will elect officers and directors for 2012 – 2013.

We value each and every member for their thoughts and ideas and hope to see a full house at the Swantner House.

Tips for the Journey into Your Family's Past

St. Louis County Library
 On internet go to <http://www.slcl.org>

Click "Genealogy & Local History"

For Newspapers Articles and Other Historical Informational Sites....

Click - "Databases & Websites" from menu on left of screen

From the drop down list choose and click - "Historical St. Louis Post-Dispatch (ProQuest)"

To Login Enter your last name
 Enter your 10 digit library card number
 Enter you 4 digit pass code
 Click "Submit"

FOURTH ANNUAL BOOK FAIR



Members....

**Our Fourth Annual Book Fair will be held this Fall,
 so don't forget to start saving those books.**

"History is merely gossip.
 ~Oscar Wilde