

Wonder Workshop Children's Museum ¹ March 2010

Pictures from our traveling museum/school bus we refer to it as our C.O.W. (Classroom on Wheels)

1006 Leavenworth St.
Manhattan, Ks. 66502
785-776-1234
www.wonderworkshop.org
wonder@kansas.net



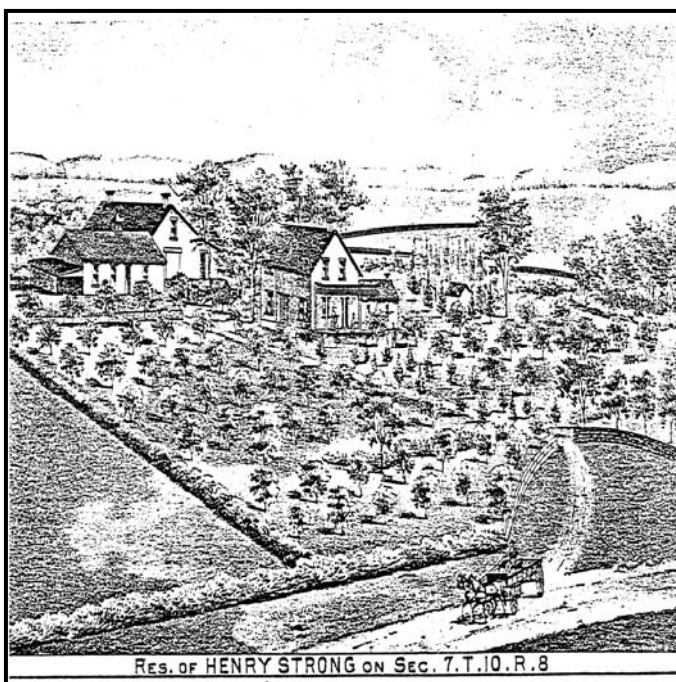
Thank god for warmer weather!!! This winter our traveling museum has been making its rounds to area schools. Students get to explore science, art, and the humanities by engaging our hands-on exhibits that come to them in two parts: the first part is set up in the school itself and the second is the bus with its different paleontology dig areas. We are thankful for receiving a grant from the **Greater Manhattan Community Foundation** that provided funding so we now have heating and air conditioning on our C.O.W.

In addition to the foundation above we are also thankful to the **Manhattan Yes Fund** allowing us another year to provide after school programming for students in Manhattan.

This year the Wonder Workshop will offer a new program allowing the public to experience what it must have been like to be a slave, and a person escaping with the help of Kansas abolitionist to freedom. This year the National Parks Service will be hosting its Underground Railroad National Conference in Topeka at the end of July. Next year in 2011 Kansas will celebrate its 150th anniversary and we wish to remind fellow Kansans and others the important role our ancestors played in their struggles to make Kansas a "Free" State. Participants from near and far will now be able to schedule our Underground Railroad Tour or undergo the slave experience to freedom. I hope to see you there.

Listed below are the Wonder Workshop Board of Directors who serve our children: Mrs. Diane Washington, Mrs. Sherry White, Ms. Jessie Kwatamdia, Mrs. Kelly Loub, Mr. Wayne Corn, Dr. David Griffin, Mr. Peter Else, and Mr. Terry Jones. Thanks for all you do!

Richard Pitts



Drawing of the Henry Strong Farmstead in Manhattan. A cave at this site was used to hide Africans escaping to freedom.

WONDER WORKSHOP

1006 Leavenworth Street
 Manhattan, Ks. 66502
www.wonderworkshop.org

Phone: 785-776-1234

cell: 785-410-7752

E-mail: wonder@kansas.net



Addie Levy,
 local artist

From Richard Pitts new book and CD with the author telling each story as you read along, “**African American Stories with a Lot of Soul!**”

Mr. Fox

High up in an oak tree sat Mr. & Mrs. Song Bird warming their eggs. They were snuggled up together singing their favorite song: “This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine, yes, this little light of mine; I’m gone to let it shine.” As they sang, they heard a voice coming from the bottom of the tree.

“Hello you two lovebirds, hello” it said.

It was Mr. Fox. He was a handsome enough fellow, dressed in blue overalls, a wide brim straw hat, a long handlebar mustache with a goatee, and sporting a very strange looking axe in his hand.

Mr. Song Bird shouted out “good morning sir.”

Mr. Fox responded with, “It would be a good morning if you threw me down one of those eggs your sitting on.”

The two birds replied that the idea was preposterous and he should keep moving down the road. Mr. Fox retorted, “If you two knuckle heads don’t throw me down an egg, I’ll be chopping down this tree with my axe and I’ll eat all the eggs. And if I catch you two, I’ll have a BBQ.”

The robins felt like they had no choice and threw him down one egg. Fox caught the egg in his mouth before it could hit the ground and said, “Yum, yum, yummy, I’ll be seeing you”.

Both birds thought that will be too soon. Momma bird started crying; Papa soothed her by saying, “It’s going to be alright, Mr. Fox is gone forever.”

Around noon who should be back at the bottom of the tree? Mr. Fox. “Hey you two its lunch time and my stomach is growling. Throw me down another egg before I have to cut this tree down and I’ll eat them all.”

Mr. Song Bird threw down another egg and Fox caught it in midair and gulped it down moaning “yum, yum, yummy!” He left the birds crying up in their nest saddened by the loss of another un-hatched baby.



Carley Nelson (left) is a 5th grade student at St. George Elementary. She has been involved in Wonder Workshop programs at her school since she was in 1st grade. We asked her to interview her mother (left) Brandey Nelson a 5th/6th grade teacher at St. George about the Camp Invention science program that is offered at St. George. Below is the interview:

CN: How did the Camp Invention get started at St. George and when was it first introduced to your students?

BN: Our principal got a flyer in the mail asking our school to have the summer camp in 2009. I volunteered to be in charge of the camp because I thought it sounded like a lot of fun for kids and something neat to do over the summer.

CN: How long has it been serving students at St. George and is it fully funded or do students pay a fee?

BN: Our first week long camp was July 2009. We have been doing one day clubs this school year. Clubs cost \$59 for the day and camp is about \$189 for the week.

CN: what are a few of the benefits that students receive from participating in the program?

BN: A few of the benefits that students receive are learning teamwork and cooperation, learning how to solve problems in creative ways, and better understanding of science.

CN: Do you offer this program throughout the school year why or why not?

BN: Yes, we offer clubs on some days when school is not in session to give kids something fun and exciting to do when they're not in school.

CN: What grade levels are allowed to join?

BN: Students in grades 1st—6th are allowed to take part in Camp and Club Inventions.

CN: I have been to both Camp and Club and I really had a lot of fun. It was challenging, but it was exciting to work with a group to solve a problem. I would recommend camp to everyone! Thank you mom, I mean Mrs. Nelson.



This drawing symbolically represents the heart of the American struggle for Human Rights and the United States first Civil Rights Movement.

Joann Blackburn, artist