

The future home of the Wonder Workshop Children's Museum is located at 506 S. 4th Street, Manhattan, Kansas

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Wonder Workshop

February 2013



Hello dear friends. It's been a while, I know, since our last newsletter in the fall. As you can imagine we've been very busy with our new building. The upkeep in addition to our traveling museum on wheels and programs we offer to the public has left little time in our schedule.

Recently we approached the City of Manhattan's zoning

department to ask if our new location is zoned for museum use. Unfortunately for us it wasn't, so we began the process of amending the current city zoning for our museum. This meant writing a proposal and filling out an application to bring this about. We started this last December and waited until February to be on the city planning board's agenda and

later in the month to be on the city council agenda. To our delight both approved our request and we officially have the city's stamp of approval!

Table of Contents:

Denise Heideman	3
Science activity	4
Upcoming events	6
Homer's Big Stories	7

Wonder Workshop Board of Directors



2012

David Griffin, Diane Washington, Terry Jones, Jack Oviatt, Joshua Runyan, Jan Stepp, Jeffery Stepp, and Nathan Thompson Weaver

Advisory Committee: Gary Conrad, Denise Heideman and Jim Spencer

Earlier last month, we met with a code department official who approves electrical wiring for buildings. Since our building hasn't had an occupant for the last three years Westar Electric Company required us to contact the city before they turned back on the power. The city inspector required us to have the house rewired with new panels both inside and outside the house extending to the power pole. Our electrician recently completed the rewiring and the city inspector approved the job. We have lights and power!

We have one more hurdle with the city to complete before we are able to start making the necessary changes to the interior and exterior of our museum and that is to get a permit issued to us from the plans examiner at the city code department. Our architect, who has been busy with project commitments with others clients before we came along tells us he'll have our plans ready for the city by March 8th. Thereafter we should have our stamped permit and can begin with developing our new home. Change is slow when you are as excited as we are to reopen our children's museum but it's happening even though it seems it's at a snails pace.

In the near future (next month hopefully) you will begin to see signs in peoples

yards with our logo on them that look something like this:



With the help of 31 elementary students ranging in grades 4th to 6th, 12 seniors who are future history teachers enrolled in the Department of Education at K-State and our staff we are developing a historic cell phone tour. This tour is called "Call me, Manhattan" and will allow visitors to use their cell phone to hear audio about the historic home and the folks who had it built. There is no charge from the Wonder Workshop. These homes are selected on the basis that these early settlers who moved here between the years 1855 to 1925 had an influence on the development of our town in a positive way. This project was made possible with a grant we received from the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation and Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. It has been such a joy having this opportunity to work with these students, the families who own the featured houses and the Riley County History Museum staff.

Denise Heideman's article, within these pages, really does a great job of sharing the importance of reading for all. I personally used to wonder why as a child I had such a difficult time reading. I can remember having to read paragraphs two or three times just to comprehend what was being read. I couldn't read out loud until my adult years with any comprehension and I remember being so impressed with others who seemed to do it with ease. As a child I even thought I wasn't as smart as friends and family members which ultimately caused me to develop an inferiority complex when I compared myself to others who read so beautifully. I'm truly thankful for her article and I hope you will enjoy it too.

If you still enjoy a good story don't forget to read Homer's Stories, they are true stories that happened right here in Kansas.

Have you seen Joshua Runyan's Trolley around town during his Halloween and Christmas tours? Well, he and I are partnering to provide historic tours next month but only for two days. If you are interested and would like to hang out with us for a few hours please check out the flyer now. This is a family friendly adventure that won't come around again for a while. If you've taken my Underground Railroad tour in the past and liked it you won't want to miss this! Richard Pitts

Reading, a Building Block to one's future!

by Denise Heideman

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairytales." – Albert Einstein.

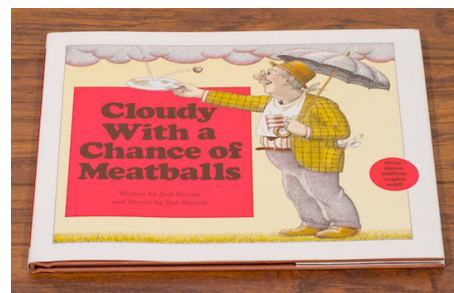
Why is it important to read to your children?

Teaching in a middle school I have witnessed firsthand the impact learning how to read has on a child. The students that struggled with reading would typically act out in class, making a scene and refusing to do their work. They would fight and fight and fight to not be embarrassed of their weakness because it made them feel stupid and ashamed. This was something that these kids had been struggling with for six or seven years of school. It is so hard to see the pain that has been inflicted on them from something they cannot help. Learning how to read opened doors for them. They no longer felt incapable; but the sad truth is that these students are extremely far behind by this point and have a tough journey ahead of them. This is why it is so important to start reading to your children early.

The easiest thing that you can do to help your child read is to read aloud to them, starting early and

often. Even as infants. Initially, the sound of your voice creates a sense of calmness, conditioning the child to associate you and the book with security. Listening comprehension comes before reading comprehension. You must hear a word before you can say it or read and write it. If you've never heard the word "enormous" in a meaningful way, you won't understand it when it's time to read or write it. There's a kind of "word reservoir" in a child's brain and the point is to pour so many words into it that it overflows into speech and then reading and writing. *According to Jim Trelease, the author of the New York Times Bestseller "The Read-Aloud Handbook,"* by age four, high-income children have heard 45 million words from their families and low-income children have heard just 13 million. Some food for thought, a child spends 900 hours a year in school and 7,800 hours at home. Who makes the more impact as a teacher? I write this to you because **parents are the most important reading role models for children and young people so please consider trying to read at least a book a day.**

A book I recommend that is available at the Manhattan Public Library is:



Cloudy with a chance of meatballs by Judi Barrett.

I hope you check it out and read it together with your little ones!

The Magic Ketchup Experiment!

You can make a pack of ketchup float and sink at your command while it's sealed inside a bottle!

YOU WILL NEED:

- * A 1 liter plastic bottle
- * Ketchup pack from a fast food restaurant
- * Salt (using Kosher salt helps keep the water from becoming foggy)

WHAT TO DO:



1. Remove any labels from the bottle and fill it all the way to the top with water.
2. Add a ketchup pack to the bottle.
3. If the ketchup **floats**, you're all set - go to step 4. If the ketchup **sinks** in the bottle, go to step 5.
4. For the floating ketchup pack simply screw the cap on the bottle and squeeze the sides of the bottle hard. If the ketchup sinks when you squeeze it, and floats when you release it, congratulations, you're ready to show it off. If it does not sink when you squeeze it, try a different kind of ketchup pack or try a mustard or soy sauce pack.
5. If the ketchup pack **sinks**, add about 3 tablespoons (45 ml) of salt to the bottle. Cap it and shake it up until the salt dissolves. (Kosher salt will keep the water from getting too cloudy, although it will usually clear up over time if using regular table salt.)
6. Continue adding salt, a few tablespoons at a time until the ketchup is just barely floating to the top of the bottle.
7. Once it is consistently floating, make sure the bottle is filled to the top with water, and then cap it tightly.
8. Now squeeze the bottle. The magic ketchup should sink when you squeeze the bottle and float up when you release it. With some practice you can get it to stop in the middle of the bottle.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This experiment is all about buoyancy and density. Buoyancy describes whether objects float or sink. This usually describes how things float in liquids, but it can also describe how things float or sink in and various gasses.

Density deals with the amount of mass an object has. Adding salt to the water adjusted the water's density to get the ketchup to float. Sound complicated? It is, but here's the basics on the ketchup demo...there is a little bubble inside of the ketchup packet. As we know bubbles float, and the bubble in the ketchup sometimes keeps the heavy packet from sinking. When you squeeze the bottle hard enough, you put pressure on the packet. That causes the bubble to get smaller and the entire packet to become **MORE DENSE** than the water around it and the packet sinks. When you release the pressure, the bubble expands, making the packet less dense (and more buoyant) and, alas, it floats back up. This demonstration is sometimes known as a **CARTESIAN DIVER**.

MAKE IT AN EXPERIMENT

The project above is a **DEMONSTRATION**. To make it a true experiment, you can try to answer these questions:

1. Do different food packs (ketchup, mustard, soy sauce) have the same density?
2. Does the temperature of the water affect the density of the ketchup packet?
3. Does the size of the bottle affect how much you have to squeeze to get the packet to sink?



Presents: Manhattan's FIRST Historical HOME Trolley Tour

WHEN:

Saturday March 9th- 10:00am-12:00 and 1:00-3:00pm

Sunday March 10th- 1:00-3:00pm

\$20 Per Person-

5 and Under- \$5 (Must sit on Lap)

**Tour Guide is
Mr. Richard Pitts**

**Visit Underground Railroad Home's,
First Settler Homes and MORE**



**Proceeds to benefit the Renovation of the
NEW AND IMPROVED
Wonder Workshop Children's Museum**

EMAIL- mhktrolley@gmail.com to get registered

SPACE IS LIMITED



www.MHKTROLLEY.com



Short Stories from Homer!

Ed Sharpe was an old traveling salesman with The Salina Supply Co. When I went to work there in 1960 he was 72 years old. Ed would tell about when he used to travel by train. When he got to a town such as Ellsworth he and several other salesmen would go together and rent a horse and surrey and travel to the smaller towns near Ellsworth. They would then spend the night in Ellsworth and then move on to Russell and do the same thing. They would do this until they had seen all their customers.

Right after I went to work for The Salina Supply Co. the partners came over from Missouri and they had their annual business meeting. Ed was the last of the old salesman and drew a monthly check probably double what anyone else got. All the stockholders got their heads together and passed a resolution that everyone had to retire at 65 years of age. Ed was an old drill sergeant in the English army during WWII. He got up and said, "Of course this is directed at me and I will gladly take your retirement pay, but I have no intention of retiring. I'll sell for Lee Hardware they sell the same things and I'm sure my customers will stay with me." After that someone made a motion that they strike the 65-retirement requirement. Ed was still there when I left.

Doc Turner

Doc Turner was an institution around Garnett. He was an old old man when I remember him, I would guess at least 80. Doc had an old Chrysler car that he drove ever since I can remember. I'm sure it was a '30's vintage. He would come down the street with the engine revved up as fast as it would go slipping the clutch so he was moving about 3 miles an hour. You could hear him coming all over town. The Chrysler dealer, Carl Etherington, finally sold Doc a new Chrysler with an automatic transmission. He took Doc out for a drive so he could get used to the new transmission. Doc drove the car home and parked it in his garage, which faced the street next to the alley. The next morning when Doc was ready to go to his office he started the car and forgot everything the dealer had told him to do. He revved it up and slipped it in reverse. Out the garage door he shot, across the street and part way up the alley then struck a tree. He went back in the house and called Carl and told him he wanted his old car back.

February is Black History Month!



Did you know it was started by Carter G. Woodson in 1926 as Negro History Week? In

1976 it was extended to Black History Month because one week per year was too short. Here is a couple of people we hold in high regard because of their dedication to all Americans but especially African American people.

Geraldine Baker Walton took the time to write this history of the African American people of Manhattan, Kansas in 2008. We salute her for keeping our history alive in this new age of learning!



Fannie Lou Hamer was a Civil Rights Activist from Mississippi who fought for equal rights throughout the south. She was often threatened, jailed and beaten during the 1960's but she never gave up hope and helped to change unjust laws throughout the country.