

Whoowee....117 degrees is a little out of my comfort zone! About 40 degrees out! Hopefully, we are done with that kind of heat but at least now it makes the 90's feel cool. Hope you all stayed cool and are doing well.

If you remember, I ended the last newsletter talking about a very special pipe given to the Society by Clint and Leslie Uselman. The pipe was made of clay and manufactured by Gladding, McBean & Co. in Lincoln, California. It's about two feet long and nine inches in diameter. Clay pipes have been used for sewer piping for many years, however this pipe escaped that fate. Rumor has it that this lucky piece of pipe was used as a stove pipe in the old City Hall (the inside of the pipe is covered in soot). We know that after the City Hall was built in 1897, the council purchased a wood stove from Dr. Watson's store on Railroad Avenue. The hall burned in 1929. Our stove pipe must have been removed from the hall before the fire because it shows no signs of being in a fire. Anyway, somehow this pipe made it across Charles Street, into my Grandfather's Chevrolet Garage, and eventually to Clint and Leslie.

Why are we so excited about this pipe? It is not actually the pipe but what is printed on it. As you know, when the railroad came through this area in 1880, they placed a stake and painted the name Fillmore on it naming the spot after a railroad executive. This was only a reference point for the rail workers. The small collection of buildings was not a town yet, but the area did become known as Fillmore. For example, when Fr. Odermatt was looking for a place for an Abbey, he referred to his choice as "the butte near Fillmore". There are very few letters, documents, or artifacts with that name on them. This pipe is one of them. Printed on the side it says: "via Woodburn" and "Fillmore". This pipe was shipped via Woodburn to Fillmore probably by rail sometime in the 1880's. The letters J H P are also printed on the pipe. We believe it was shipped to John H Palmer who bought a store, in what was to become Mt Angel, from a man named Cash Barlow in 1882.



Speaking of Fillmore, we all know that Mt Angel had several names. What is interesting is the order in which the "town" was given the names. With some help from Donald Reetz at our Post Office and the USPS Archives I was able to put the different names in chronological order. We know the railroad came through and called the area Fillmore in 1880. In July of 1881 George Settlemeier platted out a townsite west of what is now Main St. and recorded it as Frankfort. In February of 1882 Monroe Cleaver was granted his request to establish a post office in Palmer's store. On his application he chose to call it Roy. So, in February of 1882 the railroad called the area Fillmore, Settlemeier's town was Frankfort and right across Main St., just outside the plat of Frankfort was the post office named Roy.???? (Some things I have read said Palmer's Store was located within the town plat of Frankfort, but I think it more likely it was located on the east side of Main St.) My question is, and we will never know for sure, why the different names? Why didn't Mr. Cleaver name the post office Frankfort or Fillmore since both those names were already in use? Or for that matter why didn't Settlemeier name his town Fillmore? It seems to me that would have been the logical thing to do. I suppose the chosen names must have held some significance for both men, but it also must have been very confusing. It all started settling out when later in 1882 Settlemeier sold his Frankfort to Cleaver, and he changed the name to Roy. Of course, in 1883 the name was changed again to Mt Angel.

Remember Worley's Drug Store? The building is starting to look like it did in the 30's, name and all. Bill Worley had a drug store in town from 1924 to 1967. In 1930 he moved into a new building right next to Tiny's Tavern. The building has been repurposed many times, but the new owner wanted to remove all the changes, especially to the front, and get it back to the 1930 look. What he found was the Worley Drug sign looking like it had just been painted! I don't think he's going to keep it there, but it sure brought back memories. (Check our Facebook posts for more on Worley's Drug Store)



On a sad note.... two longtime members of the Society passed away recently. Barbara Schmidt (December 7, 1940 – June 7, 2021) and Yvonne (LeDoux) Boline (Sept. 28, 1926 – June 18, 2021). Barbara and her late husband Joe were great supporters of the Society, and I would pick their brains quite often for information about Mt Angel's past. Yvonne was the daughter of Louis and Mary (Schwab) Ledoux. Just before she passed away, she donated to the Society a beautiful baptismal gown her mother Mary had hand stitched in 1914. It was made of fine batiste, hand embroidered and used for all of Mary's children and grandchildren! A big thanks to Yvonne's daughter Karen for helping with the donation.

Bill Predeek, President,

Mt Angel Historical Society

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!