



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2015

Summer

Incorruptible Cashier

Plymouth Historical Society received a donation of a wonderful small cash register from Paul Ellefson. The register is in very good condition and is a Model 130 that was made in 1905 based upon its s/n 446842. It came from his mother-in-laws (Grace Cochenet) old tailor shop (Julie's) on Chicago Ave. South in Minneapolis. The following are a few pictures of the cash register.



Prior to the invention of the cash register many businesses kept their cash in a drawer or a cigar box which led to employee pilfering. So then the question is when was it invented and by whom?

It was James Ritty who invented "Ritty's Incorruptible Cashier". From the Ohio History Connection website is the following history of the cash register:

James Ritty was born on October 29, 1836, in Dayton, Ohio. As a young man he briefly attended college to study medicine, but with the American Civil War's outbreak, Ritty left school and enlisted in the Fourth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry as a first lieutenant. He served honorably for three years, leaving the Union Army in 1864, having attained the rank of captain.

In 1871, Ritty became a saloon owner in Dayton. Unfortunately for Ritty, some of his employees stole money from the business. In 1878, while on a ship bound for Europe, Ritty saw a machine that counted the number of times that the ship's propeller completed a revolution. Using the same sort of technology, Ritty became convinced that he could invent a machine that could keep track of his sales. He returned to the United States, and with the assistance of his brother, a mechanic, he invented the first cash register. He patented his invention on November 4, 1879, and called it "Ritty's Incorruptible Cashier." Ritty's machine did not have a cash drawer. Instead, it simply recorded the number of sales and also the amount of each one. This machine allowed Ritty to keep accurate track of the number of sales and the amount of each sale that was made.

Upon patenting his invention, Ritty established a company to manufacture the cash registers in Dayton. Unfortunately, Ritty's invention did not draw much enthusiasm from other business owners, and Ritty's new company quickly closed. Ritty eventually sold his patent (for a \$1000) to a group of Ohio investors. Among them was John H. Patterson, who eventually turned Ritty's invention into a fortune. In 1884, Patterson founded the National Cash Register Company.

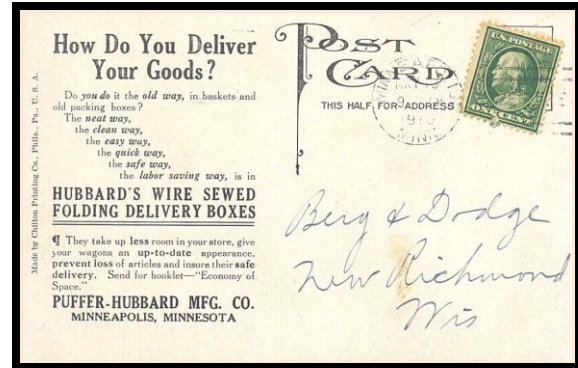
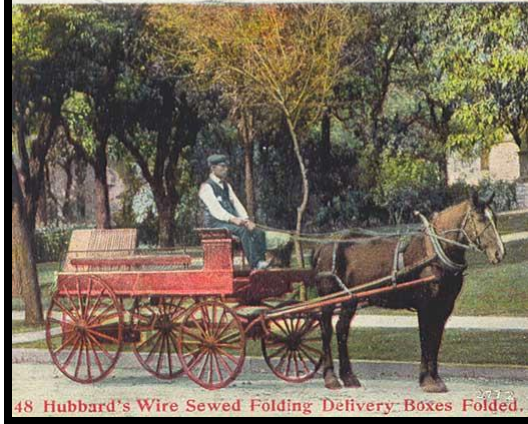
After selling his patent, Ritty remained in the bar business. He finally retired in 1895, primarily due to poor health. He remained in Dayton for the rest of his life, dying on March 29, 1918.

The Folding Box

In the days before the phrase “Paper or Plastic” how did grocery stores and other businesses pack groceries and other merchandise for delivery to their customer’s? Wooden crates were the predominant means for moving materials prior to the invention of the cardboard box. Those wooden crates were fairly expensive and hard to replicate on a large scale,

In the larger cities it was very common for businesses to deliver goods via horse/wagon and later via delivery trucks. One solution for solving the problem with wooden crates was invented by A. Hubbard. He held several patents from 1897 and 1915 for folding box design. It was manufactured by the Puffer-Hubbard Mfg. Co. of Minneapolis in the early 1900s. It was used by companies to deliver their goods to merchants and they would generally be stamped with the grocery store label on the side of the box. The concept was revolutionary. You could load these boxes filled with produce or other goods on the horse drawn delivery wagon or truck. Once delivered and emptied, they simply folded down but were very durable that could be used over and over again.

The first corrugated cardboard box manufactured in the USA was in 1895. By the 1900s, wooden crates and boxes were slowly being replaced by corrugated paper shipping cartons.



Advertisement Postcard for the Hubbard Wire Sewed Folding Box Company

An example of the box in excellent condition was provided by Kay Bertrand – Plymouth. After a little restoration it is like new. It is an ingenious solution for storing, re-using over and over again wooden boxes. It was successful for a short time in history but was slowly replaced by cardboard cartons, paper bags, plastic bags and plastic totes.



Groceries ready to be delivered

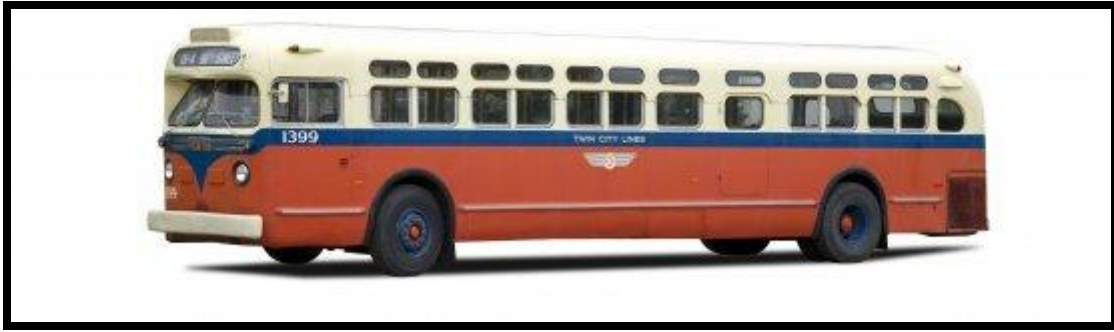


Folded and easily stored



Embossed label on end of box "Hubbard's Wire Sewed Folding Box"

“History on Parade Tour of Plymouth”



On Sunday October 4th from 1:00 to 3:30 PM the Plymouth Historical Society will again be having the “History on Parade Tour” of Plymouth in a Classic Twin Cities Transit bus. The tour will leave the Old Town Hall (Plymouth Historical Museum) in Plymouth Creek Park and visit selected historical sites and return back to the Old Town Hall. The tour will be narrated and a pamphlet with historical pictures and notes about the locations of farms, homes, schools and churches that have been the foundation of the growth of Plymouth will be provided.

So you and your family come and join us to relive the past – hurry make your reservations to get your tickets since space is limited to 50 people on the tour.

Hurry don’t miss out on this special event. For reservations please contact Gary Schiebe [763-473-4889](tel:763-473-4889) or via e-mail garyschiebe@isp.com. Cost is \$12.00 per person, payment required in advance to assure you or your family a place on the bus.

Website

The Plymouth Historical Society website is:

www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

Check us out!

Note: All past newsletters dating back to 1986 are available on-line in PDF format for viewing or printing.

Donations

Donated by:

Donated by Paul Ellefson:

- National Cash Register Model 130

Donated by George Faue

- Large old wall map from local school



Meetings

The Museum is also open the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM during Spring, Summer and Fall.

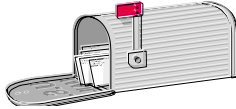
The monthly business meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth Historical Society Building, located at 3605 Fernbrook Lane North, Plymouth, MN.

Open by special appointment in January, February & March

Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

President	Dennis Jacobson	763-972-0988
Vice President	Kay Bertrand	763-249-0138
Secretary	Betty Jacobson	763-972-0988
Treasurer	Gary Schiebe	763-473-4889



Mailing and Membership List

If you are not a member and want to sign up or if you have any questions, please call:
Kay Bertrand, 763-249-0138.

The 2015 annual dues are:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Individual Lifetime	\$100.00
Family Lifetime	\$150.00

If you would like the newsletter delivered via E-mail please notify Kay Bertrand or send an e-mail to: info@plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

If you do, it is a plus for both of us. When you receive via e-mail it will be in color. When sent by mail it is in black and white and costs PHS about \$2.00 per copy to print and mail.