

Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, No. 1 May 2009

Bridging the Gap

Marie Demeroukas

Photo Archivist/Research Librarian

When was the last time you crossed a bridge and paid attention to it? Really paid attention? It's probably been a while. Most times we tend to tune out bridges. But to the early settlers and later residents of Northwest Arkansas, bridges were important. They opened up new areas of settlement, connected communities, allowed goods to be traded and marketed, and offered a safer, easier means of travel.

In order to cross a river or creek in the early days, residents established fords (low-water crossings) to walk across or drive a horse and buggy through. Enterprising individuals set up ferries, floating travelers and their wagons across a stream for a fee. Swinging footbridges were also built, but they weren't for the faint of heart.

Passage through the hills was equally daunting. In order to go from one mountain to the next folks walked or rode up and down steep slopes, along narrow, rocky, rutted roads. It wasn't a matter of taking the shortest, straightest path, but of following the easiest trail.

Big bridges were expensive, so whether directly or indirectly, they had to be profitable and meet a well-established need. Railroads needed them to further their business interests. Counties and states needed them for commerce and government.

The era of big bridges came to Northwest Arkansas in the early 1880s with the coming of the railroad, which brought new opportunities for commerce. A growing economy led to a growing population. Both meant progress and progress meant bridges. The railroad helped out there as well, transporting construction materials. It would have been almost impossible to bring huge, heavy steel girders by oxcart over long distances through rugged hills.

Besides the obvious aspect of travel and commerce, public safety is also a concern. Sometimes bridges fail and need to be rebuilt. Other times a new need is defined. In 2002 an overpass was built over the Kansas City Southern railroad tracks in Gravette. The project resulted from a terrible incident—a man died on the way to the emergency room when a stalled train blocked traffic.



Construction of the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad bridge over Osage Creek in Carroll County, 1901. *Carroll County Heritage Center Collection*

see BRIDGES, page 6

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Allyn Lord



The country's economic downturn is playing no less havoc with the Shiloh Museum than it is with all of us individually. The City of Springdale's revenue

loss has only added to financial difficulties. As of this writing, the 2009 City budget is still in flux as each department has been asked to make significant budget cuts. In order for the City to maintain safety and basic services, the museum's 11% cut is the largest percentage budget cut of all departments.

Whether working under a generous or cauterized budget, the museum has always striven to be a good steward of resources provided by Springdale citizens, museum members, and donors. In 2007 and 2008, for example, we garnered almost \$184,000 in grant monies for projects as large as the Shiloh Meeting Hall renovation and as small as a planning grant for a DVD about Sacred Harp singing. We've been and continue to be recycling advocates, not only for the standard metal, glass, plastic, paper, and cardboard, but also in terms of reusing exhibit and office materials and sending no-longer-serviceable items (e.g., metal card files, worn cases, old projectors) to auctions at the Police Department.

Museum staff members – who for the most part hold advanced, professional degrees – have stepped up to provide much of the manual labor needed to undertake museum projects, rather than hiring expensive outside help. Whether moving desks, file cabinets, and boxes next door to our temporary duplex during last year's roof project, digging a six-inch-deep, fifty-yard trench for running security wiring to our outbuildings, or downing limbs, gathering branches, and piling logs from the January ice storm, staff members have saved the City tens of thousands of dollars in contract labor during the past year.

In each newsletter we publish a wish list, requesting donations of needed items or the money to buy them. You, in turn, have responded in spades, providing us with chain saws, shelves, books, and all sorts of other donated items. You can do even more for us by receiving your newsletter by email rather than in paper format. (See page 6.)

We hope not to have to cut back on the services we provide in 2009 and 2010, as staff expertise, talents, and creativity allow us to do a lot with very little. More than ever we appreciate our partnerships and collaborations. And more than ever we value the financial help that you, our members, continue to provide. We will do what we can financially to make good decisions, provide dynamic activities, and offer continuing services in these challenging times.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Whitmore, president; Greg Spencer, vice president; Stephanie Hegde, treasurer; Dr. Marsha Jones, vice-treasurer; Sally Walker, secretary. Carolyn Bayley, Myron Eng, Dianne Kellogg, Martha Lankford, LuAnn Little, Jim Morriss, Al Newton

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Dr. C. S. Applegate*, Dr. Dwight Heathman, Maudine Sanders, Stephen Taylor

* deceased

STAFF

Allyn Lord, director; Jacqueline Burnett, library assistant; Betty Bowling, secretary; LuAnn Clarkson, special projects library assistant; Marie Demeroukas, photo archivist/research librarian; Pody Gay, education coordinator; Don House, photographer; Curtis Morris, exhibits manager; Marty Powers, maintenance; Carolyn Reno, collections manager; Jenny Vego, education assistant; Heather Marie Wells, collections assistant/podcast producer; Susan Young, outreach coordinator

VOLUNTEERS

Ethna Billings, David and Vonita Carpenter, Karen Cordell, Beverly Cosby, Leslie Coston, Susan Dewey, Tom Duggan, Steve Erwin, Martha Estes, Linda Fulton, Regina Gable, Danielle Hansen, Michelle Hearn, Bill Jones, Mary John Jones, Ann Kabanuck, Mitsy Kellam, Mada Knight, Jim and Marie Langford, Mira Leister, Marilyn Meek, Oda Mulloy, Pam Redfern, Debbie Reed, Don Reynolds, Larry Shivel, Jeanne Tackett, Ray Toler, Mary and Bruce Vaughan, Era Walker, Edward Vogt, Ryan Wells

MISSION STATEMENT

The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History serves the public by providing resources for finding meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration in the exploration of the Arkansas Ozarks.

Adopted by the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees on July 13, 2006

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY

118 W. Johnson Avenue • Springdale, AR 72764 • 479-750-8165
www.springdalear.gov • shiloh@springdalear.gov

Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Free Admission

The Great Ice Storm of '09

It's likely we'll never forget the sound...that distinctive crack, snap, and thud of ice-laden tree limbs breaking and falling to the ground, accompanied by the tinkling of ice falling on ice. It was made all the more powerful by the muffled silence which hung over Northwest Arkansas following the January 27, 2009, ice storm and the resulting days and weeks of electrical outages region-wide.

The storm, perhaps the worst in recorded area history, deposited more than an inch of ice over northern Arkansas. While all the damage was bad, a tongue of heavier ice hit some of Springdale's oldest districts, making the damage even more heartbreaking.

The Shiloh Museum wasn't immune to the catastrophe. On our main, two-acre museum campus we lost forty trees. The worst loss was to the wooded area north of the log cabin, where every tree standing went down, more than twenty in total. Another two dozen trees have

lost significant limbs and branches but are being coaxed back to health. Our largest tree, the bur oak, and our yellow buckeye, one of the tallest such trees in the state, luckily survived with only minor injuries. The good news is there was very little structural damage and our insurance covered most of it. The museum itself, despite backup power for about a day, was shut down for four days without power.

Check out the video clips shot by groundskeeper Marty Powers on the afternoon after the storm, available on the museum's website as podcast episode 52, "The Ice Storm Cometh."

Staff members, especially Marty, worked furiously and wholeheartedly to deal with the damage, get the twenty-or-so ricks of logs sawn and moved, and reclaim the museum campus from the deluge of tree debris. We're currently working on developing a plan for replanting trees – all native species – and for reinterpreting the area of major tree loss by the log cabin.



Photo by Don House

We welcome donations to help pay for the tree removal and/or new plantings. Make checks payable to the Shiloh Museum and mail to Tree Fund, c/o Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, 118. W. Johnson Ave., Springdale, AR 72764.

Thank you for these "for-use" donations:

- Arkansas Country Doctor Museum: *An Interview with Mary Virginia Moore Stokenbury Regarding Dr. James Monroe Boone*
- Bank of Fayetteville: exhibit case
- Mary Jane Dyson: milk bottles
- Patti Erwin: tree consultation
- Steve Erwin: *Hill Top Chronicles: 1882-1930*
- Har-Ber High School EAST Lab students: ice storm cleanup
- Harps Foods: ice cream for "Raise the Roof" event
- Jeanie Hittson and the children of Eva Lee (Thompson) McDonald-Armstrong: *My Life's Journey: From the Depression Era Until Today*
- Glenn Jones: LCD projector case
- Mira Leister: negative storage binders
- Northwest Technical Institute: chainsaw sharpening
- Ozark Public Television: *OzarksWatch* documentaries
- Henry Piazza: blackberry plants
- RBAA Films: video-to-DVD conversions
- Margaret Rogerson: Christmas ornaments, milk bottles, small meat grinder
- Truman and Dolores Stamps: duct tape; storage crates; printers tray; lunch for Photo ID Group volunteers
- Dale Webster: *Under a Buttermilk Moon*
- Patricia Ambrose Welker: *The Road to Northwest Arkansas and Roma Lucille Morrison Ambrose*

DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

January–March 2009

Martha Rice Brewer: Camp Joyzelle photos, Rogers, 1949

Nancy Dugwyler: “Shaving Permit” buttons distributed during the 23rd Annual Rodeo of the Ozarks, Springdale, 1967

Inez D. Fallis: A. B. Coger’s teacher’s license and pharmacy board certifications; advertising calendar; almanac; photographs of A.B. and Ethel Coger, Springdale, 1901-1978

Jim Fields: Odd Fellow papers of Marion Fields, New Era I.O.O.F. Lodge, Springdale, 1944

Sharon N. McGuire: First State Bank of Springdale letter holder and needle threader; First National Bank of Springdale wallet, 1960s

Pati Mitchell: Arkansas Methodist Conference poster, published in Eureka Springs, 1900

Eda L. Montag: Springdale Rebekah Lodge No. 22 seal, membership and bank records; *Odd Fellow Code of General Laws*; miscellaneous Rebekah and Odd Fellow papers, 1970s-2008

LaDeana Mullinix: Audio tapes, CDs, papers, and photographs from Farmington oral history project, 2004-2008

Carmyn Pitts: Dress and slip of Lois Hale, Round Mountain (Washington County), 1940s; Sycamore Springs (Washington County) church record book and scrapbook, 1890s-early 1900s; *Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company Operating Rules*, Cane Hill, 1916

Irma Watson: Southwestern Bell Telephone Directory, Springdale, May 1955

Thank you for lending photographs for copying: Billy Bell, Doris Denzer, Wayne Martin, Kelley Sisco

Want to learn more about artifacts and photos in our collection?

Visit www.springdalear.gov/shiloh and click on “Artifact of the Month” or “Photo of the Month.”

SHILOH SUMMER EXPRESS



HISTORY CAMP

For kids ages 6-12

A different theme each day!

- Railroads
- Native Americans
- Pioneers
- Arkansas Symbols
- Ozark Folklife

June 8-12, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

\$67.50 for Shiloh Museum members; \$75 for non-members

July 13-17, 9:00 a.m. – Noon

\$45 for members; \$50 for non-members

Registration begins May 15. Call 750-8165 to sign up. Payment required to confirm registration.

SHILOH SATURDAYS

10:00 a.m – 2:00 p.m.

Free, no registration required. Fun for the whole family!

June 27. Stitches and Signals. Fiber arts demonstrations and ham radio field day.

July 18. Homesteading with Hezzikiah and Miranda. Come help the pioneer couple with their chores.

August 8. Tools and Gadgets. Try some useful utensils and clever contraptions from days gone by.

Photo: Unidentified boy in front of the Minnie Smith home on Locust Street in Fayetteville, ca. 1920. *Ada Lee Shook Collection*

Volunteer Spotlight

Leslie Coston



I am a collections volunteer and over the past year have worked with a variety of projects and artifacts. When I first started volunteering I had no idea how diverse the collections and duties were!

Primarily, my work consists of core collection tasks and includes cleaning, labeling, cataloging and housing objects. Along the way, I have helped to both set up and take down exhibits; organize and summarize manuscript collections; secure exhibits and artifacts for the roof renovation project; and also helped decorate the Searcy house for a 1940s Christmas.

Two projects within the past year that stand out in my mind are the James W. Bivens Collection and

the Natalie Henry Collection. For both projects I sorted documents (personal letters, business memos, news clippings, etc.) by type and year and grouped them into manila archival folders. The document content was summarized and entered into a computer manuscript. The final step was to box and store the folders. I tried to summarize the information found within the correspondence as best I could. After all, you never know how the collection may be used in the years to come. The museum may utilize it to create an exhibit, or it might prove useful to a historian writing a book, or someone researching a family's history. I really enjoy working with these types of collections. Many span years, sometimes decades. Summarizing the information can be challenging but also enlightening as I come to understand what life was like for the families.

The James W. Bivens collection consists primarily of letters written to him from various members of his family around the country. At the time of the letters (1960s and 70s), he had moved from St. Paul (Madison County) to California, where he worked in the music industry. I found the collection interesting because you can see the progression of Bivens'

life reflected in the writings of his family members, even without direct correspondence from him. You also get an indication of daily life in rural Northwest Arkansas during the same time frame.

The Natalie Henry collection also consists of several types of correspondence including letters between Natalie and her friends, business correspondence, and several sketches. Natalie was an artist from Malvern who trained at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1940 she completed the mural *Local Industries* for the Springdale Post Office. Many of the papers in the collection include project notes and sketches related to her commercial and professional work. The business correspondence, such as invoices and accounting ledgers, give insight into what professional life was like for an artist working during the mid to late twentieth century.

I enjoy working directly with the objects; the hands-on contact makes history more personal and accessible. Through my work, I have learned to appreciate each object as a component of a story, a piece to a puzzle that gives a glimpse of life in Northwest Arkansas.

WISH LIST

For photo collections

- negative holders (\$165)
- negative storage binders (\$54)
- job ticket rack (\$145. A used rack is fine; contact Marie Demeroukas for details.)

For grounds maintenance

- limb shredder (\$500)

For exhibit construction

- panel saw for cutting sheets of plywood (\$700)

For collections storage

- mechanic's rolling stool (\$100)

For podcasting

- Canon Vixia HV30 video camera (\$770) or Panasonic PV-GS320 video camera (\$500)
- Pinnacle Dazzle Video Creator DVC 170 (\$90)
- Adobe Premiere Elements (\$100)

For education programs

- board games (can be reproductions) from the 1950s-1960s, such as Parcheesi, Pick-Up Sticks, Chinese Checkers, Candyland, Careers, Cootie, Sorry, Clue, Go to the Head of the Class, Concentration, and Rack-O

Bridges

From page 1



In 1904 a steel bridge (above, ca. 1912) was built over the White River east of Rogers. It was torn down during the construction of Beaver Lake in 1963. When area residents were told the new concrete bridge (right, August 1964) would span from one hill to the next, they couldn't believe it. It was hard to imagine a huge lake in their valley. Folks traveled to the construction site to take photos and home movies. *1912 photo from the Bob Besom Collection; 1964 photo from the Springdale News Collection.*



At one time bridges played a big role in the community. Folks posed on them for photographs, stood on them to watch river baptisms, and fished from them. Bridges were used to make statements too, often with tragic consequences. In 1923 striking workers on the Missouri & North Arkansas Railroad (M&NA) burned eight bridges near Eureka Springs and Harrison. A striking M&NA employee was later hanged from the Crooked Creek bridge, probably in retaliation.

Today the bridges of Northwest Arkansas are as important as ever.

New ones are being built to meet increasing transportation demands. But some of the grand old bridges are in trouble. High maintenance and restoration costs have endangered many of them including the War Eagle bridge near Rogers and the "Little Golden Gate" bridge by Beaver. So far preservation-minded folk have managed to convince officials of the need keep to them, but for how long?

In 2001 the citizens of Wyman Township near Fayetteville faced a painful decision—keep their historic bridge or replace it with a new one.

Safety was a concern, as was money to preserve the old bridge. It might have been possible to build the new bridge nearby and still keep the old bridge, but it meant a longer delay in building the new structure. In the end, the bridge was torn down. 🐼

If you'd like to learn more about historic bridges in Northwest Arkansas, come see our newest photo exhibit, Bridging the Gap, on view through August 8.

Help Us Go Green

It takes a lot of paper to produce this newsletter, which is not good for the environment. Couple that with lean budget times, and it quickly becomes clear that a great way to help save the planet and save money is to ask our members to receive the *Shiloh Scrapbook* in an online format. Just email shiloh@springdalear.gov and let us know that you'll help us go green (environmentally) and save green (financially) at the same time!



Help Us Make Music

We're looking for the following loaned or donated items for an upcoming exhibit on music:

- Tickets/stubs from local concerts
- Programs from local musical performances
- Music posters (the ones you had on your walls during high school and college!)

If you can help, contact collections assistant Heather Marie Wells at hmwells@springdalear.gov or 750-8165. Thanks!



CALENDAR

Through Jan. 16, 2010. *Squeaky Clean*, an exhibit on the history of hygiene in the Ozarks.

Through Sept. 26. *Carry On*, an exhibit featuring baskets, trunks, purses, and other artifacts used to contain and transport items.

Through Aug. 8. *Bridging the Gap*, a photo exhibit featuring Ozark bridges.

June 6, 1:00 p.m. "A Season at Dogpatch," a program on life as a theme park employee by John Cook of Fayetteville.

June 8-12. History Camp for kids. See page 4.

June 17, noon. A program on snakes by UA graduate student Rod Wittenberg.

June 27. Shiloh Saturday. See page 4.

July 4, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Old West Film Fest, featuring a variety of classic silent Western movies starring William S. Hart.

July 13-17. History Camp for kids. See page 4.

July 15, noon. "Historic Bridges of Northwest Arkansas," a program by researcher Randall Houpp of Booneville.

July 18. Shiloh Saturday. See page 4.

August 8. Shiloh Saturday. See page 4.

August 11-December 19. *Prized Possessions*, a photo exhibit featuring people posed with their favorite things, be it heirloom, horse, or household goods.

August 19, noon. A program on historic military saddles by saddlemaker Doug Kidd.

September 12, 10:00 am.-2:00 p.m. 32nd Ozark Quilt Fair, with antique and new quilts for show and sale.

September 16, noon. A program on thong trees by Al Knox, Hobbs State Park trail maintenance supervisor.

October 12-March 27, 2010. *What's Its*, an exhibit of oddities from the museum collections.

October 21, noon. "How Life Changed in Madison County in the 1860s," a program by Joy Russell of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society.

November 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m. 8th annual Tontitown Polenta Smear, celebrating Tontitown's Italian heritage. Co-sponsored by the Shiloh Museum and the Tontitown Historical Museum; held at St. Joseph Parish Hall.

November 18, noon. "Not a Good Sign: A Backroads Photographic Love Affair," a program by photographer Don House.

For a current listing of events and meetings at the Shiloh Museum, visit www.springdalear.gov/shiloh.

Join the Shiloh Museum Association

- Satisfaction of knowing you are supporting an important cultural institution and helping preserve our Arkansas Ozark heritage, *and*
- 10% discount on Shiloh Store purchases
- Reduced fees for children's and adult workshops
- Invitations to exhibit openings and special events

Consider a Gift to the Shiloh Museum Endowment Fund

☐ Check here if you would like more information about the endowment fund.

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- | | |
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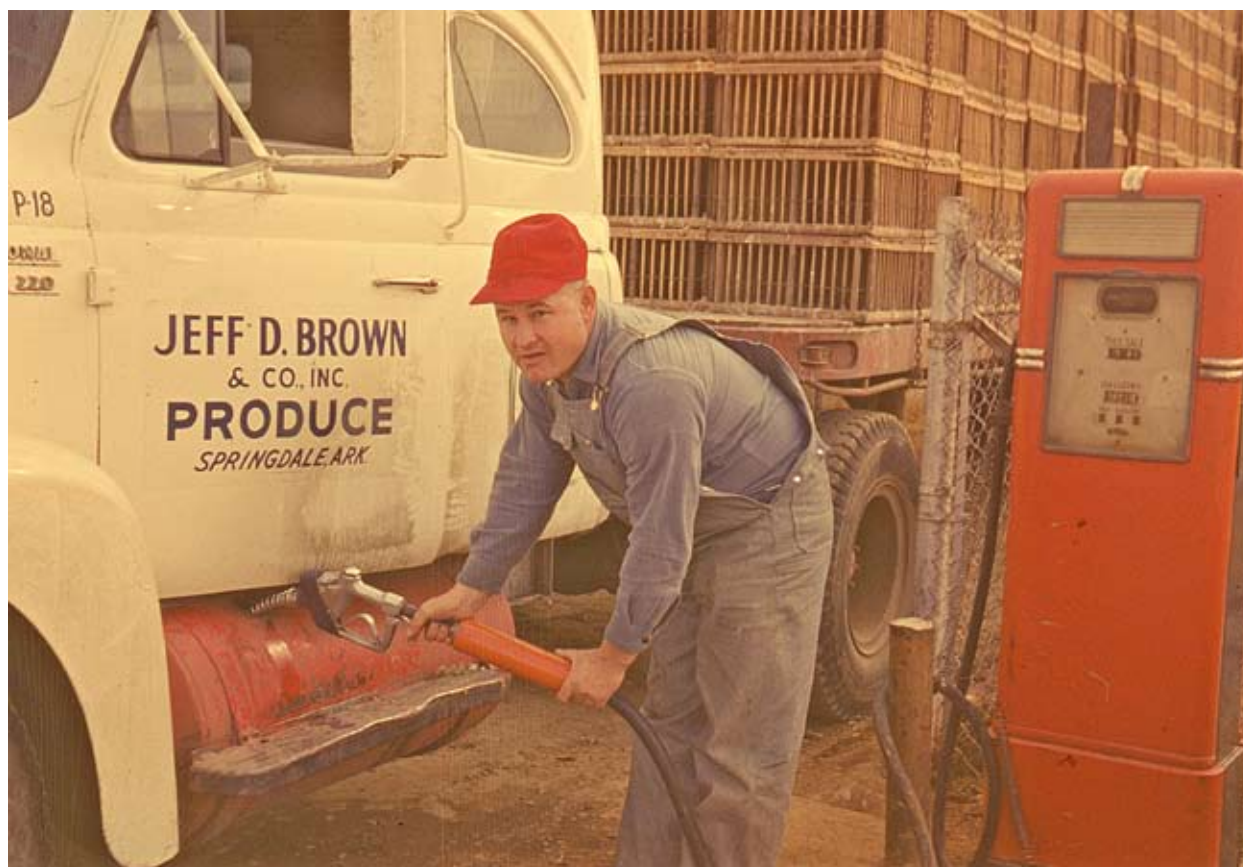
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Please make check payable to: Shiloh Museum
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A driver for Springdale's Jeff D. Brown and Company fills up his tank before heading out to pick up a load of chickens from a local grower in this photo from the early 1960s. From the 1920s through the 1970s, Brown and Company was a leader in the field of poultry nutrition and breeding. *Courtesy Earlene Brown Henry*



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