A Real Pearl

Allyn Lord
Director

A pearl—the traditional thirty-year anniversary gift—begins when a small object, such as a bit of sand, gets inside oysters and mussels and a lustrous substance is secreted around it. As layer upon layer is built up, a pearl is formed. A pearl also defines what secretary Betty Bowling has meant to the Shiloh Museum for thirty years.

After three decades of service to the museum, Betty is retiring at the end of 2011. Like that foreign object that finds itself in a new place and builds upon itself to make a wondrous gem, so did Betty arrive at the museum and grow into one of the most well-loved and luminous staff members in Shiloh Museum history.

A native of Huttig in south Arkansas, Betty found the museum after she moved here with her family. A friend she had grown up and gone to school with, Pat McCrary, had moved here many years earlier and gotten married to a historian named Bob Besom. Betty discovered that Bob’s workplace—the Shiloh Museum—was a great destination for her then-third-grader Freddy. A year later, in October 1981, with both her children in school, Betty became a part-time secretary at the museum.

Back then the museum was housed in the old library building, where the museum stands today. The 1927 building served the museum well, but it had its drawbacks, like the leaky basement that Betty remembers she had to “bail with a mop and bucket every time it rained.” Because Betty lived closest to the museum, it was she who responded to the occasional security alarm by meeting the police. Museum work also meant new experiences for Betty, such as watching how small numbers were written on objects and observing folks come in with all sorts of donations. She can still recall walking by shelves of objects and hearing the fluttering sound of plastic sheeting hung there as a dust protector.

Over the years, Betty says, probably the biggest change has been going from the old library and the general
Kudos to our friends at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. What a grand and beautiful gift to Northwest Arkansas and the world. That thousands upon thousands have already visited the museum is no surprise. Local excitement, expectation, and pride grew with each year of its creation and overflowed at its 11-11-11 opening.

It’s interesting to me that so many folks have asked if I think that the Shiloh Museum will lose visitors to Crystal Bridges. To me, that’s like asking if the opening of a gourmet restaurant in Bentonville negatively affects a family-style restaurant in Springdale. Most people want both in their lives, because they expect quite different experiences from each.

I believe that our two museums operate not as competitors but as colleagues, sharing our love of Ozark history and American art with our audiences and helping visitors understand that both history and art—along with music, natural history, and many other subjects—are tied to each other in the web of life.

Whether you’re a teacher taking advantage of the Walker Charitable Foundation’s incredible gift of free transportation for schoolchildren, an outdoors enthusiast wanting an art experience on the museum’s trails, or a local citizen wanting to explore the power of art with the beauty of landscape, there’s much to explore and breathe in at Crystal Bridges.

If you want to learn more about how Northwest Arkansas came to be, want to step back in time into real-life examples of Ozark architecture, have research or photographic needs that include a Northwest Arkansas topic, or simply want to “set a spell” in a contemplative space, your time at the Shiloh Museum will be well spent.

One thing research shows is that those who enjoy visiting museums in their leisure time are very likely to visit multiple types of museums. This has already been proven locally. The day before Crystal Bridges’ opening, a Little Rock couple exploring the Shiloh Museum grounds said they had come up for the opening and were visiting many of the area museums.

Schoolchildren, tourists, educators, the general public... we all win when museums exist and thrive. The Shiloh Museum already has a great working relationship with Crystal Bridges, and we look forward to years and years of collegiality and partnerships.

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.shilohmuseum.org • shiloh@springdalear.gov
Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. • Free Admission
store to a multi-building campus and the newer museum building, which she remembers thinking was “uptown.”

Among Betty’s most memorable moments are:

- the 1980s annual Mayfest, a celebration of pioneer heritage including arm-wrestling contests, fiddling, Maypole dancing, and special exhibits;
- the day in 1998 when the Cooper barn caught on fire;
- Christmas open houses in the old library with decorations, music, and lots of visitors;
- museum bus trips to such places as Boxley, Tahlequah, and Tulsa;
- potlucks and birthday parties; and
- the day in 1990, while excavating for the new museum building, they found live baby raccoons under what had been the darkroom floor.

Among the most memorable characters she’s met at the museum are:

- the rough-looking motorcyclist who visited the museum on a Sunday afternoon when Betty was alone on duty and whom she was initially frightened by, but who, it turned out, was a generous man who helped children;
- former assistant director Mary Parsons, a mainstay at the museum for many years. Betty had a heck of time as the secretary because Mary loved to use commas and director Bob Besom didn’t and Betty didn’t know which to do;
- an older man who came religiously to every public presentation and always fell asleep during the talks; and
- the part-time employee who called in sick for several days with a paper cut.

Although Betty’s job title has always been secretary, in the early days she pitched in wherever she was needed, such as going to Fayetteville to punch out exhibit labels on a commercial Kroy-Type label maker and running the newsletter on an old mimeograph machine. She remembers it was a difficult transition from typewriter and hand entries to computer. Now, however, her job has been more what she calls her “routine”—memberships, maintaining the museum scrapbook, board-related work, and library projects. Despite her routine, we staff members have looked to Betty as our rock-solid, day-to-day support and our supplier of amazing cooking, such as her cheese grits, red velvet cakes, and Aunt Sissy’s lime jello.

Asked what has given her the most satisfaction over her thirty years, Betty talks about the feeling of being part of it all, almost from the ground floor. While being in on the placement of the museum building’s cornerstone and having her name on the bronze plaque at the museum’s front door are nice, she says she has “a special pride in how well known the museum has gotten to be.”

Retirement for Betty will mean joining an exercise class, traveling, working around the house on projects that have been on the back burner, and especially enjoying more time with her grandchildren: Weston, 17; Bradley, 13; and Addison, 11.

Although we know her family will appreciate her being more available, Betty will be sorely missed by the museum staff who’ve come to depend upon her and—without hesitation—love her. When asked how they’d describe Betty, staff members said she’s sweet, steady, amusing, thoughtful, NEAT, dependable, and “a little cheeky.” We know this woman, like a fine pearl, is rare, fine, admirable, and valuable, and that no one will ever be able to fill her shoes. Like every pearl, Betty Bowling is one-of-a-kind. ✪

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Subscribe to our free monthly eNews. Send an email to shiloh@springdalear.gov with “Subscribe” in the subject line.

Our podcast series is available on our website or at iTunes U.

Happy Holidays!
Rain Barrel Workshop. Partnering with the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service, museum staff and volunteers helped forty participants make their own rain barrels, while kids in attendance enjoyed water-related educational activities.

34th Annual Quilt Fair. Some 360 people attended our display of over 90 contemporary and antique quilts, hung from clotheslines strung on the museum grounds, with old-time music from Shout Lulu. Winners in the contemporary category were Ann Haggard of Carthage, Missouri, Ruth Beard of Springdale, and Donna Daugherty of Springdale. Winners in the antique category were Pat Kile of Eureka Springs, Ruth Potter of Carthage, Missouri, and Zoe Caywood of Hindsville.

Viñetas Latinas: Daily Life in Northwest Arkansas. Local Latino/a citizens and others gathered to talk about how they spend their leisure time (tiempo libre), Sunday (Domingo), and a work day (un día de trabajo). Co-sponsored by the University of Arkansas Office of Diversity and the ACLU of Arkansas/Immigrants’ Rights Project, everyone agreed that such a program connects people, highlights interesting cultural stories, and is worth doing again, at least annually.

Beans & Cornbread Supper and Silent Auction. This annual friend-and fund-raiser went outdoors in 2011, with some 150 folks enjoying a down-home meal and an opportunity to bid on 30 gift baskets and meet with members of five of the history-based organizations that call Shiloh Museum home. Over $1,300 was raised for the museum’s endowment.

Sheep-to-Shawl. After 24 years, this annual museum program continues to educate children about sheep shearing, spinning, and weaving with an experience one student described simply as “best day EVER!” More than 760 students participated in the two-day event which features shearer Paul Ahrens and members of the Wool & Wheel Handspinners Guild and the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild.

“Digging Up Arkansas.” During the course of five days and in cooperation with the Walton Arts Center and Trike Theatre, the museum greeted 1,500 Springdale school students who were treated to a performance of this dynamic play about Arkansas history.

Polenta Smear. For the tenth year the museum co-sponsored with the Tontitown Historical Museum the annual Tontitown Polenta Smear. During the event, the museum copies historic Tontitown photos and documents and provides copies to the Tontitown museum. A special treat this year was Tontitown Mayor Tommy Granata’s presentation of a plaque to Shiloh Museum outreach coordinator Susan Young, distinguishing her as an honorary Tontitown citizen for her work in authoring So Big, This Little Place, a Tontitown history published by the Tontitown Historical Museum.
**Donations to the Collections**  
*July–October 2011*

**Nadine Parsley Anglin:** Photo of Betty Black, Sonora (Washington County), ca. 1910

**David Bassett:** Fannie Phelan Henno’s autograph album, Springdale, 1884-1891

**Marvin and Veta Ray Boatright:** Scrapbooks, ca. 1920 and 1936; photo postcards of Northwest Arkansas scenes, early 1900s

**Lois Cole and Harmony Extension Homemakers Club:** Harmony Extension Homemakers Club scrapbooks, 1980s-early 1990s

**Gail Cowart:** The Confederate Soldier by L.J. Wilson, Springdale, 1902; Tax stamp for oleo, 1931

**Mary Jo Day:** Ora Hyland’s wedding dress, Fayetteville, 1930s

**James E. Duncan Jr.:** Bob’s Confectionery paper fan, Winslow, 1920s

**Juanita Duncan:** Painting of Squire Beaver’s home, Beaver (Carroll County), by Thelma Elmure, 1960

**Holly Holt Haggard:** Bar Nuthin’ Ranch photo album made by Jack Holt, Springdale, late 1940s-late 1970s

**Virginia Hicks:** Behind These Ozark Hills by Jesse Lewis Russell; portable typewriter; WWI Army wallet; Bank of Green Forest account book; autograph album; cardboard Easter eggs; baby photos, 1918-1947

**JoAnn Juneau Kahn:** Springdale High School cheerleading uniforms, stunt twirler uniform, homecoming court outfits, batons, school society pins, and class ring, 1954-1959

**John W. Johnson:** Deeds and other papers related to Fuels and Supplies Inc., and urban renewal, Springdale, 1940s-1970

**Alice Jones:** The Spinner by Freda Hall, Fayetteville, 1967

**Joy Lee Kelly:** Photo of Fayetteville High School senior class, 1920s

**Tommy Kendrick:** The Arkansas Handbook, 1936; Biennial Report of Secretary of State, 1921-24; Centennial History of Arkansas: Biographical, 1922; photo of Cotton Belt Shows, Springdale, 1930s

**Mada Knight:** Terra Firma Garden Club scrapbook, 1989-1990

**Loretta and Ray Mansell:** Civil defense sanitation kit, Springdale, 1963; tree pruner and mole trap from Earl C. Nail home, Springdale, early 1900s

**Sharon McGuire:** Hats, clothing, embroidery patterns, and handmade hot pad, Springdale and Lowell, 1930s-1970s; photo of Rodeo of the Ozarks costume; Welch’s Sparkling Drink bottle, 1980s; Weather-Bird trading stamps, 1950s, United trading stamps, ca. 1950, Gold Bond trading stamps, ca. 1970, Top Value trading stamps, 1966, S&H Green Stamps, ca. 1970

**Carmyn Morrow Pitts:** Springdale Hatchery feedsack dish towel, 1920s-30s; beaded bag, 1920s; miser’s purse, 1800s

**Anne Prichard:** Boy’s knee pants, Johnson family, Johnson, late 1800s

**Robert F. Richardson:** Eyeglasses, papers, and photographs from Cane Hill collected by Arminta Richardson, 1850s-1980s

**Marilyn Shirmir:** Toolbox and tools of Luther Liber Shirmir, Fayetteville, early 1920s-1940

**Joe Snider:** Cyclone Seed Sower, Fayetteville, mid-1900s

**Deanna Stevens:** Fayetteville Milk Company cottage cheese jars and cardboard bottle stoppers, 1930s

**Janice Townsend:** First National Bank of Springdale and First Security Bank employee uniform shirts, 1990s-2000s

**Vera Tripp:** English/French New Testament from Roberta Fulbright and letters from J.W. Fulbright and J.W. Trimble given to Vera Senger for perfect attendance through eighth grade, 1946; news clippings about Senger’s perfect attendance through high school, ca. 1950

**Karen Vinson:** Forever Honored, Forever Mourned: The Southern Memorial Association DVD by Vinson Productions, 2011

**Paul Wank:** Only a Bunch of Flowers by Mary Babb; glass plate negatives and pictures of Mary Babb, Eureka Springs, 1921

**Darrell West:** Springdale Jaycees and Jaycettes scrapbooks and project files, 1960s-1980s; Arkansas Jaycees International BB Gun Match pins, 1981

**Claressa Wood:** Levi-Strauss Company binder, license, plaque, newsletters and photos, Fayetteville, 1970s-1980s

**Photographs loaned for copying:** Libby Chase, Dianne Wilson, Claressa Wood

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Want to learn more about artifacts and photos in our collection?  
Check out the “Artifact of the Month” and “Photo of the Month” pages on our website.
A Storytelling Workshop for Grandparents

“Back When I Was Your Age. . .”

Jan VanSchuyver
Workshop Leader

Editor’s note: Jan VanSchuyver’s professional career has always involved children and stories. She worked as a children’s librarian in public libraries, then became a professional puppeteer and storyteller, performing for children and families in schools, libraries, museums, theaters, and more. She has also taught puppetry and storytelling to children and adults. Most recently she retired from being a school librarian at Root Elementary School in Fayetteville to devote time to writing, teaching, and being a full-time grandma and auntie.

If you are lucky, you remember your grandparents. Many of us who are now grandparents ourselves cherish the memory of a grandparent’s unconditional love. Stories are one way to forge and strengthen that love and a wonderful way to connect with children. Story sharing can help your grandchildren develop a solid foundation of love and knowledge which will support them throughout their lives. You can share family history, promote a love of reading, increase the child’s comprehension and vocabulary, and—maybe the most fun of all—spark and stretch the imaginations of your grandchild and yourself. You also gain insight into your grandchild’s interests and personality through finding stories he or she likes and through creating stories together.

If you want to do more storytelling with your grandchildren, or any child in your care, I hope you can join us for “Back When I Was Your Age,” a storytelling workshop for grandparents I’ll be leading at the Shiloh Museum, March 12-16, 2012, from 9:30 a.m to noon each day. You’ll learn new tools for creating and sharing stories with your grandchildren, including information on the following topics:

• What makes a good story
• How to effectively read and tell stories
• Developmental stages of childhood
• Excellent children’s literature you and your grandchildren will love
• Museum “field trips” to spark your memories
• Guidance in creating stories from your own family history
• Interview questions for gathering stories from relatives
• Tips on creating stories with your grandchild as co-author and main character
• Local and internet resources to enrich your time with your grandchildren

People who attend this fun and inspiring workshop will come away with new ideas and some well-developed family history stories ready to tell. A special event will be held at the museum on Saturday, March 17, where class participants may bring their grandchildren and share their new stories.

Cost for the workshop is $49 for Shiloh Museum members; $59 for non-members. Prepayment is required to reserve your slot. For more information, contact the museum at 750-8165 or email shiloh@springdalear.gov.
### WISH LIST

#### For collections
- 2–20” Edsal commercial steel service cart ($140 each)

#### For darkroom
- flash for Nikon D40 camera ($200-$500)

#### For exhibit workshop
- Epson 7890 printer ($3500)
- 2–Nix X15A digital photo frames ($180 each)

#### For research library
- *History of Boone County, Arkansas* by Roger V. Logan, Jr. ($71)
- *One Hundred Years, 1873-1973: A History of The Methodist Church in Harrison, Arkansas* ($5)
- *Civil War in Newton County: In the Heart of the Ozarks* by Norman R. Martin ($10)
- *Up on the Buffalo* by Norman R. Martin ($10)
- *Confederate Soldiers and Veterans of Northwest Arkansas: Benton, Washington, and Madison Counties* by William W. Degge and Dorothy Ruth White
- 5x7 acid-free Print File photo storage boxes (10 for $170)

#### For Civil War living history programs (reproduction items)
- Confederate uniform ($200)
- Union uniform ($200)
- 4–folding camp chairs ($200 each)
- wooden wash tub ($100)
- brogans (shoes) ($100)
- canteen ($50)
- items for haversack ($50)
- medical kit ($30)
- wool blanket ($25)
- Confederate haversack ($20)
- padlock ($20)

#### For oral history interviews
- Marantz PMD661 digital audio recorder ($600)

#### Thank you for these “for-use” items! (August–October 2011)
- Bob Besom: Hollinger boxes
- Libby Chase: *The Lewis Line*
- Collier Drug Stores: Ilford photo paper
- Maurice Colpitts: reproduction store counter
- Diana Danforth: *Memories of William Danforth, Age 79*
- Martha Estes: old-time radio show recordings
- Fast Signs: Discount on XNA photo mural
- Treeva Hibbard: Razorback annuals (1945, 1946, 1948)
- John Jablonski: silverware
- Eric Larson: combat boots
- Liz Lester: Graphic design work
- Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society: *Madison County Cemetery Book 10*
- Northwest Technical Institute: paper cutter sharpening
- M.J. Sell: *A Fame Not Easily Forgotten: An Autobiography of Eureka Springs*
- Southtown Sporting Supply: Fishing line
- Dolores Stamps: lunch for Photo ID volunteers
- Truman Stamps: plywood
- University of Arkansas Museum: Victorian era clothing
- Bob Watson: 1955 Springdale High School annual

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**Honoring the Mischievous**

For more than twelve years at the museum she worked mostly behind-the-scenes as a library assistant. Few visitors were aware of her work, but the sprite named LuAnn Clarkson was a cherished member of the museum staff who is sorely missed since her unexpected passing on September 3.

LuAnn’s roots in Springdale were deep. The Clarkson family businesses have included hardware stores, Clarkson’s Mercantile, and Clarkson’s Variety Store, the latter two having been located on Emma Avenue. The tales LuAnn told of pranks she pulled in her parents’ store were legendary.

Her work in the Shiloh Museum library included an array of projects, such as cataloging, sorting, and inventoring photos, helping to organize prints from the newspaper photo morgue, and researching census information. Serious work, all.

But whenever there were birthdays and holidays to celebrate, LuAnn was the first to suggest a theme and carry it over-the-top. LuAnn believed costumes and decorations were a must. Her wheelchair decorated with Christmas lights immediately comes to mind. LuAnn’s ability to find merriment in small, everyday things was an inspiration to us.

We miss her mischievousness. We miss her stories. We even miss her occasional orneriness. LuAnn, you were a big part of the Shiloh Museum family, and we will never forget you.
Recent Donations to the Museum Collection

Clockwise from top left: Sharon Sims McGuire with a satin jacket worn by her brother as he cruised the streets of Springdale on his motorcycle in the 1950s; Claressa Wood with 1970s-1980s newsletters and a denim-covered notebook from the Levi-Strauss factory in Fayetteville; JoAnn Juneau Kahn with her Springdale High School stunt twirler uniform and batons from the late 1950s; and Vera Senger Tripp with a New Testament given to her in 1946 by Roberta Fulbright, in recognition of Vera’s perfect attendance from first through eighth grade at Zion School east of Springdale.
**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.

**Help us save money and trees**

☐ Check here if you would like to receive your newsletter by email instead of U. S. mail.

Email address __________________________________________

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**Membership Levels**

- Individual - $15
- School class - $12.50
- Family - $20
- Senior Individual (65+) - $10
- Senior Couple - $15
- Patron - $50
- Sponsor - $100
- Sustaining - $250
- Benefactor - $500
- Founding - $1,000

Name ___________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________

City ___________________________________________________

State _____________________________ Zip _________________

Please make check payable to: Shiloh Museum

118 W. Johnson Avenue
Springdale, AR  72764
479-750-8165

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**Calendar**


**Through January 16.** *Working Dawn to Dark,* an exhibit exploring the lives of Ozark homesteaders.

**December 17, 2 p.m.** “Arkansas Portfolio III,” a slide program by nature photographer Tim Ernst, featuring 124 new photos depicting a variety of natural landscapes around Arkansas. All books and calendars will be on sale at special prices!

**December 20–May 12, 2012.** *Roadside Attractions,* a photo exhibit of parks, souvenir stands, and highway kitsch.

**January 14, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.** Cabin Fever Reliever: Collectors Edition II, the museum’s annual celebration of the New Year, featuring displays by local collectors.

**January 18, noon.** “Eureka Springs: 132 Years in the Making as the City that Wouldn’t Die,” a program by local historian John Cross of Eureka Springs.

**February 6–January 19, 2013.** *Arkansas/Arkansaw: A State and Its Reputation,* a traveling exhibit from Little Rock’s Old State House Museum, exploring the evolution of Arkansas’s hillbilly image.

**February 15, noon.** “The Making of the Atlas of Arkansas,” a program by Dr. Tom Paradise, professor of geosciences at the University of Arkansas.

**March 3, noon–2 p.m.** Artifact Identification. Archeologists from the Arkansas Archeological Survey will answer questions about prehistoric and historic items brought in by the public.

**March 12–16, 9:30 a.m.–noon.** “Back When I Was Your Age,” a storytelling workshop for adults who want to share stories with children. See page 6 for details.

**March 21, noon.** “Fayetteville’s Evergreen Cemetery: Fact and Fiction,” a program by independent researcher and former cemetery caretaker William Flanagan.

**March 31, 2 p.m.** Program and booksigning by Dr. Brooks Blevins, professor of Ozark studies at Missouri State University, and author of *Ghost of the Ozarks: Murder and Memory in the Upland South.*

**April 14, 1–8 p.m.** Pettigrew Day, a celebration of Madison County history. Held at the historic Pettigrew Community Building on Highway 16, 45 miles east of Fayetteville.

**April 18, noon.** “The Best of Bentonville,” a panel discussion on the history of their community by generations of Bentonville residents.

**May 15–November 3.** *Timber!,* a photo exhibit on the history of the lumber industry in Northwest Arkansas.

**May 16, noon.** “Drinking Water: Northwest Arkansas’s Ace in the Hole,” a program by Dr. Robert Morgan, manager of environmental quality for Beaver Water District.

**June 20, noon.** “Sex and the Civil War,” a program by Alan Thompson, collections manager at Prairie Grove Battlefield Historic State Park.

**July 18, noon.** “The Dating Game: Ways to Determine the Age of Your Historic Photos,” a program by Shiloh Museum photo archivist Marie Demeroukas.