Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 35, No. 3 • December 2016

Their Civic Duty



Members of the Springdale Women's Civic Club admire a homemade pie during a 1953 function. From its founding in 1921 until disbandment in 1980, the club's purpose was to "upgrade and beautify Springdale." Springdale Chamber of Commerce Collection (P-1580)

Carolyn Reno

Collections Manager/Assistant Director

Among the many stories associated with groups who have called the Shiloh Meeting Hall home is that of Springdale's Women's Civic Club. The club only used the building for a couple of years, but it was their first permanent home and, as such, it served as an incubator for a group that would go on to serve the community of Springdale for decades.

The Women's Civic Club was founded in 1921 as an auxiliary of the Springdale Community Club. The first president was Birdie Ownbey. During the first two years of activity, the club met in the mayor's office at the First National Bank Building on the corner of Emma and Holcomb. Much of their early work focused on making improvements in the schools, including the installation of drinking fountains at the grammar school. In 1923 the club was federated (joining with similar clubs on a national

level) and became officially known as the Women's Civic Club. Meetings were first held downtown at Ownbey's Drug Store, but in just a few months the club outgrew that location and moved to the more spacious second floor of Washington County Hardware Store.

Money-making projects in 1924 included: serving dinner for a meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Press Association; cosponsoring, along with the Library Association, a circus; and serving a meal at a July Fourth meeting of a Fort Smith-based Masonic group called the Amrita Grotto. By September there was a tidy \$450 in the club coffers, and the women chose to dedicate \$300 of their funds toward the installation of new street lights in the Emma Avenue business district. The downtown lighting was so brilliant, the *Springdale News* was moved

It's a week following the presidential election as I write. Much has been said and written about this election, and many of us feel—at least at this moment—that the differences that divide us are stronger than the similarities that unite us. As someone who daily looks at history, and especially how it affects us on the local and regional level, I've struggled to understand what this election means for the work we do at the Shiloh Museum.

In searching for meaning, I was moved while reading a memo that the director of the Asian Art Museum (San Francisco) sent to his staff the week before the election. Dr. Jay Xu was inspired by his "desire to find a silver lining of meaning in the current maelstrom of the presidential campaign." The memo reminded his staff—no matter what happened on Election Day—that the museum's purpose and role in the community is probably more relevant and essential than ever. And I believe he's right.

Below are excerpts from Dr. Xu's memo¹ in which I've stayed true to his words but changed references to our own museum.

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Allyn Lord

As a museum of Arkansas Ozark history, representing the history and culture of this north-central part of the State, what role can we play in this pivotal moment for human relations? How can this museum best serve fellow Americans and citizens of the world in the face of this standoff between exclusion and prejudice, and inclusion and acceptance?

FOR ALL: For one, we should make it clear that the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History stands firmly on the side of inclusion and cultural empathy. We are a museum for all. We don't deny entry to those who don't look like us, think like us, or act like us. Not only are our doors open

to all, but we actively pursue ways to make our museum more accessible to more people.

cultural Empathy: We offer a safe place for discovery, insight, and greater understanding of people; of their influences, beliefs, and values. We do this through the lens of Arkansas Ozark history. We invite all to explore the differences and the similarities between people and between cultures, and to celebrate how these values are reflected in our history from ancient times to today. Exposure and knowledge are empowering tools in countering fear of the unfamiliar or different.

A STEP FORWARD: Can a history museum engender kinder and more respectful human interactions? Can it foster empathy and reduce hate? I believe our museum absolutely can.

¹Thanks and appreciation for permission to use this memo to Dr. Jay Xu, director, and Zac Rose, manager of communications, at the Asian Art Museum. ⊁

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SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY

118 W. Johnson Avenue • Springdale, AR 72764 • 479-750-8165 shilohmuseum.org • shiloh@springdalear.gov Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. • Free Admission

Volunteer Spotlight



Trinity Castro is currently one of our most active teenage volunteers. She is a ninth-grade student attending the Arkansas Virtual Academy which has online classes, allowing her to manage her school schedule and to volunteer during the week when we have school groups visit the Shiloh Museum.

Trinity attended the museum's Cabin Fever open house in January of this year where we told her she could dress up if she volunteered with the education staff. She began volunteering a week or so later. One of her first volunteer experiences included donning a borrowed hoop-skirt dress, basically being a

mannequin during a discussion of Civil War soldiers, and then learning a Civil War-era dance as it was being taught to a group of fifth graders. She has since worked with her mom to make two dresses of her own and has become one of our veteran dancers. Trinity has also helped with our "Pioneer Chores," "Mr. Cooper's Barn," and "Then and Now" programs, summer history camp, and Sheep to Shawl, and is preparing for a December packed with "Log Cabin Christmas" programs. She says that she likes to volunteer at the museum because she loves dancing, dressing up, and most of all, the friendly atmosphere at the museum.

Trinity is currently working on the Congressional Award for Youth, a national program in which young people ages 13½ to 24 set and work to achieve goals in four areas: volunteering, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. She hopes to earn the first level of the Congressional Award for Youth by the end of this year.

Along with her volunteer work here at the museum, Trinity also shares her time and talents with the Washington County Historical Society as one of the society's Heritage School graduates. There, she helps with events and programs for audiences of all ages.

In the area of personal development, Trinity's current goal is to become proficient using a drop spindle so she can demonstrate this skill during our education programs.

In the physical fitness category, Trinity regularly practices and performs historic dances. Her performance venues have included Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Cane Hill Harvest Festival, and the ArkanSalsa Fest.

Like many of our young volunteers, we have seen Trinity become more confident as she shares history and her passions with young students who visit the museum. We appreciate her enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and growing poise as she continues to work on more programs.

In her free time, Trinity likes to draw and is interested in fashion and making costumes, including anime/cosplay costumes.

Thank you, Trinity, for sharing your time with impressionable young students and with us.

Note: We have several fantastic, energetic young volunteers, ranging in age from 9 to 19, working with our education staff, which makes it very difficult to pick just one to highlight here! We'll be introducing you to the rest of these outstanding young people in future newsletters.

Connect with us

Subscribe to our monthly eNews. Read our blog, *The Backstay*. Listen to our podcast series on iTunes.







What's in Store

Kathy Plume Gift Shop Manager



See us for unique holiday gifts

- Old-fashioned toys for the kiddos
- History-themed puzzles
- Handmade lap harps and door harps
- Ozark-shaped cookie cutters
- Gibson white-oak baskets
- Stuffed animals of the Ozarks
- Walking sticks and museum medallions
- Books about Ozark history
- Country, folk, and Christmas music CDs
- Civil War-related gifts

Debit and credit cards accepted. All proceeds benefit the museum.

Shop Local! Shop Shiloh!

WISH LIST

For education

- (8) 8-foot plastic folding tables, \$80 each
- Walmart gift cards, any amount
- fox and otter skins; small deer antler; taxidermied chicken
- artificial dogwood branch with blossoms
- vintage dollhouse furniture, toy trucks, cars, and tractors

For collections

• Shop-Vac, \$110

For exhibits

- (18) fake tomatoes, \$70
- clamps, any size, \$5-\$30 each

For research library

- Oak Leaves Homeseeker's Edition 1912, \$24
- Memoirs of Captain J.M. Bailey, \$23.50
- Locomotives & Motorcars—Missouri & North Arkansas Railroad, \$23
- Boone County Historian back issues, \$200
- *Carroll County Historical Quarterly* back issues, \$65

For the grounds

- (5) loblolly pine trees, \$10–\$40 each
- (3) Arkansas Black apple trees, \$20–\$40

Thank you for these "for-use" items (August–October 2016)

Kris Brye: books, photos, and CDs about soil

Karen Cordell: paint

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art: digital video players; miscellaneous audiovisual equipment

Linda Doede family: living history costumes and supplies

Ron Hearon: tiller

John Jablonski: utility trailer and license; rachet tie-downs; folding table

Mira Leister: fake strawberries; Walmart gift cards

Harold and Sharon McGuire: quilts; rag rug
Bill and Margaret Moeller: quilt fabric

Dolores Stamps: aprons

Olivia Trimble: hand-painted wooden quilt square

DONATIONS TO THE **C**OLLECTIONS

August-October 2016

Gilbert Bloyed: Eli Bloyed land patent, West Fork, 1844 Steve Chyrchel: abstract for Blue Springs Heritage Center property, Eureka Springs, 1969

Christine Jarmola: Charlotte Blood's rodeo queen costume; Round Up Club and cowboy shirts, Fayetteville, 1949

David Quin: books on Northwest Arkansas history, midlate 1900s; Johnson's Water Mill corn meal sacks, 1970s; color slides from the movie set of *The Blue and the Gray*, 1981

Susan Schroeder: check embosser; two-hole punch; receipt writing machine; fountain pen; electronic organizer; all from Fayetteville, Rogers, and Eureka Springs businesses, 1960s-1990s

Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees: Springdale Savings and Loan piggy bank, circa 1965; Christmas ornament made by Valorie's, Springdale; circa 1990

Cheria Simpson: pressure cooker from the Japton cannery (Madison County), 1920s; Quality Hatchery and Feed Store pencils, Springdale, Rogers, and Huntsville, 1960s

Photographs loaned for copying: Ann Engskov, First Christian Church (Siloam Springs), Craig Larson, Dale Waldrop

To further explore our collections, visit our website's Artifact of the Month and Photo of the Month.

Purchase an Impact Gift for the Shiloh Museum

You're sometimes at a loss for what to buy for those folks who don't need anything. You know they're good people who care about good things. So instead, consider buying them a gift in their name for the Shiloh Museum and we'll generate a good-looking e-card showing them the impact that they made on local history.



Cost of museum's core exhibits per visitor: \$18





Cost of furnishing one average research request: \$50



Annual preservation cost for one medium-sized artifact: \$35

Civic Club

From page 1

to christen Emma as "the White Way," a nod to Broadway's famous Great White Way, a dazzling district of outdoor electric signage.

The Civic Club found a permanent home in 1925 by taking a long-term lease on what was then known as the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church—today's Shiloh Meeting Hall. The women went to work making minor improvements to the building, especially the second-floor rooms.

The club then turned its attention to fund-raising. In August 1926 the women sponsored a play, *The Flapper Grandmother*. Proceeds from the play were earmarked for a \$500 pledge toward a public library for Springdale. A flower show held downtown netted \$100 in admission fees (ten cents for adults; five cents for children).

In March 1927 the Women's Civic Club helped organize a local parentteacher association, with chapters at each of the town's three schools: Central, Washington, and Springdale High. Later that year, in August, the new library was dedicated. The Women's Civic Club was the library's largest donor. In return for such generosity, the club was given a ninetynine-year lease on the library's kitchen, tea room, and committee room. The club used the rooms for their regular meetings and made extra income by renting out the rooms and hosting teas and dinners for other organizations.

One of the major projects of the Women's Civic Club in the 1930s was the beautification of the newly paved Highway 71. In cooperation with Fayetteville clubs, trees were planted along the roadway. In Springdale, the club went a step further and included the campus of Central High School (which faced Highway 71) in their landscaping project. The grounds

were graded, trees planted, and rock pillars placed at the school's entrance. The work evolved into a beautification project for the Arkansas centennial celebration in 1936.

As they had done from the start, the club continued to support Springdale schools throughout the Depressionera 1930s. They paid the tuition for individual students and in some cases for entire grades, such as the junior class of 1932. They raised money to teach music in the schools and to support a school glee club. They also contributed to the textbook fund and toward playground equipment.

Relief work became another concern of the club as the decade and the Depression progressed. Money was raised to purchase medicine, clothing, shoes, and food for those in need. In 1937, the club donated fifty quilts and comforters to the Red Cross.

As members of the Fort Smith
District of the Arkansas Federation
of Women's Clubs, the Springdale
club took their good works to a
regional level. In December 1932 the
Springdale women were assigned to
gather donations for the Arkansas
Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Booneville
(Logan County). Along with financial
support, the club collected thirty-two
pints of jelly and preserves, canned
goods, books, and magazines for
sanatorium patients. The Springdale
club's work with the sanatorium
continued for more than forty years

The 1930s also found the club working to boost community pride. They worked with the city's annual spring cleanup, organized tours of new and remodeled homes, and encouraged the city council to pass regulations against spitting on the sidewalks and washing cars in the street.

Like the rest of the world, in the early 1940s the club's attention turned to events in Europe and eventually World War II. Club programs focused on topics such as American citizenship, ways to win the war, and the reading of an article by J. Edgar Hoover entitled "Careless Talk." The women gave over a section of their club rooms at the library to the Red Cross surgical dressing department. They participated in scrap-metal drives at every opportunity. They sent bags of rice, boxes of clothing, and even purses filled with sewing notions to refugees overseas.

During the war years, the women maintained their support of school and community programs. They started a hot-lunch program at Washington School and continued city cleanup efforts by adopting a new slogan, "A More Beautiful Springdale."

In 1947 the club began a project to landscape the grounds of the new North Central Elementary School at the corner of Highway 71 and Huntsville Avenue. Money for the landscaping was raised by raffling off a hope chest, serving a meal to the Bentonville Co-op, and selling subscriptions to Holland magazine

Talk of building a new hospital took center stage in 1948. The Women's Civic Club pledged \$1,000 toward the project, promising to pay the sum in \$100 installments over a ten-year period. They made good on their pledge in less than three years.

The civic club's beautification projects really began to have an impact in Springdale during the 1950s. They expanded their outreach in the community by sponsoring beautification contests for homes and businesses. In 1956, the club won \$200 in a "Community"

Accomplishment" contest sponsored by the Sears Roebuck Foundation. The women chose to donate the \$200 toward the installation of lights and water in the city's new Murphy Park.

In the 1950s the club became involved with projects at the University of Arkansas, including the sponsorship of foreign exchange students and donations to the nursing and the Fulbright scholarship programs.

This was a period of great activity for the clubwomen. They had a monthly radio program on KBRS radio. They sent "thank-you grams" to Springdale citizens and community groups who were doing their part to boost the town. They sponsored Girl Scout troops and initiated a Springdale Teacher of the Year award. Christmastime meant packing baskets of food for the needy and sponsoring a Christmas tour of homes. City beautification continued to be a priority, with a "Litterbug Project," an off-street parking project, and the upkeep of Murphy Park, as the main areas of work.

The vitality of the club continued into the 1960s. Husbands were issued a blanket invitation to attend club meetings with their wives. A Community Improvement Program

was instituted, which included educational leaflets stuffed in bank statements, a letter-writing campaign to realtors and builders asking them to cooperate in the town's betterment, and an information packet distributed to newcomers that included tips on lawn care. Other projects of the 1960s included sponsoring a class for expectant parents and making slippers for patients at the VA hospital.

The Springdale Library moved to a new building in Murphy Park in 1966, but the Women's Civic Club continued to hold their meetings in the basement of the old library. In 1968 this building became home to the Shiloh Museum.

Drug-abuse prevention was a nationwide project for the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the 1970s, so this work was undertaken by the Springdale club. They collected S&H Green Stamps which could be redeemed for television programs on drug abuse. Another project was the support of Boyland, a home for troubled boys which was located in Winslow, Arkansas. At Christmas the Civic Club sent jars of peanut butter and jelly, combs, socks, sweatshirts, blankets, and sheets to Boyland.

In 1971 the Springdale Women's Civic Club founded a Junior Civic Club. The two groups cooperated on projects, including landscaping and purchasing playground equipment for the East Side Youth Center, donations of money and books to the Springdale Library, and support of the Shiloh Museum.

As the decade progressed, club activities became more philanthropic. Donations were made to the Ozark Guidance Center, Springdale Memorial Hospital, and the Washington County Health Department. Support was also given to the University of Arkansas nursing program and special education classes at Central Elementary School, Southwest Junior High, and Northwest Vocational Technical School.

In 1978, at the request of Springdale mayor Roy Ritter, the club vacated the basement rooms of what was now the Shiloh Museum so that the museum could use the basement for artifact storage. Club meetings continued at the Legion Hut until the club disbanded in December 1980.

As we work to bring the Shiloh Meeting Hall back to life, rest assured that the story of the Women's Civic Club, along with all the stories of people and organizations who have called the building home over the years, will be remembered.

Shiloh Meeting Hall Rehabilitation Fund

To assist the Shiloh Museum in its rehabilitation of the Shiloh Meeting Hall, I/we hereby pledge and agree to pay to the Shiloh Meeting Hall Fund.					
Total pledged* \$	Paid now \$	Balance payable: 2016 \$	2017 \$	2018 \$	
Name					
Address					
City		State	Zip		
Email and/or phone					
Date	Signature(s)				
VISA DISCOVER Card nu	ımher		Exp. date	CVS code	

Make checks payable to Shiloh Museum of Ozark History; note "Meeting Hall Fund" in memo line. Return this form to Shiloh Museum Rehabiltation Fund, 118 W. Johnson Avenue, Springdale, AR 72764.

^{*}If you can give \$250 or more, please DO NOT make your check out to the museum—your donation can be DOUBLED. To do so, or for other questions, please email director Allyn Lord or call 479-750-8165.

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Through October 2016

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Big Thanks to BAX!

Charles & Sherry Sisco

Shirley Sletten

Our good friends at Black Apple Crossing, Arkansas's only cidery, recently turned their downtown Springdale taproom over to us during the first Shiloh Museum Tap Takeover, a fund-raiser for our historic Shiloh Meeting Hall. Museum board members and staff waited tables, apple experts Dr. Roy Rom and Guy Ames were on hand to chat about local apple history, the folksy strings of Willie Carlisle Goehring and Pete Howard filled the air with music, and Baller Food Truck kept everyone fed. At the end of the evening, all gratuities raised were donated to the museum by Black Apple Crossing owners Leo Orpin, Trey Holt, and John Handley: a total of \$770! We're especially grateful to Leo, who came to us with the tap takeover idea and enthusiastically worked with us to make the event happen.



Calling All Collectors!

Our annual Cabin Fever Reliever open house and celebration of the new year is set for Saturday, January 14, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. As is tradition, we'll be featuring local collectors and their collections. If you have a collection to share (no weapons or Native American artifacts, please), we'd be pleased to have you join us. We'll even provide a sack lunch for you and a guest. Space is limited; email Susan Young or call 750-8165 to reserve a spot or for more information.











CALENDAR

Through January 14, 2017. *At Home in the Ozarks, 1974,* photographs by former Fayetteville resident Jim Simmons.

Through February 11, 2017. *CHAIR-ished,* an exhibit featuring chairs in the museum's collections.

Through December 10. *Starstruck*, a photo exhibit featuring a lighthearted look at celebrities who have visited Northwest Arkansas over the years.

December 10, 2:00 p.m. Holiday concert by students from the Will Bush Violin Studio.

December 12–May 13, 2017. *Scenes of Carroll County,* a photographic look at the people, places, and events which helped shape Carroll County history.

January 14, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Cabin Fever Reliever open house, featuring displays by local collectors.

January 18, noon. "Lewis Ross and the Cherokee Trail of Tears," a program on a powerful but often-overlooked Cherokee leader, by Shiloh Museum research specialist Rachel Whitaker.

January 30–May 20. *Strange Scenes in the Ozarks: M. E. Oliver's Silk-Screened Art,* an exhibit featuring a number of pages from Madison County native M. E. Oliver's 1955 book depicting the rural Ozarks he knew as a child.

February 15, noon. A performance by the University of Arkansas's Inspirational Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Murdock.

February 27–February 17, 2018. *Marketing Magic,* an exhibit featuring historic advertising memorabilia in the museum's collections.

March 15, noon. "Thunder in Ozark Politics: The Senatorial Race of 1844," a lively debate between Arkansas political figures Archibald Yell (portrayed by Doug Kidd) and David Walker (portrayed by Lyle Sparkman).

April 19, noon. "Otto Ernest Rayburn and His Ozark Folk Encyclopedia," a program by Ethel Simpson, retired archivist with the University of Arkansas Special Collections Department.

May 16-December 9. *The Changing Face of Emma,* a photographic look at Springdale's first commercial district, from heyday to decline to present-day rejuvenation.

May 17, noon. "The Story of Lizzie Rubart Gibson: Fruit Modeler," a program by Toinette Madison, director of the Boone County Heritage Museum in Harrison.

Find more events on our website, shilohmuseum.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History serves the public by preserving and providing resources for finding meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration in the exploration of the Arkansas Ozarks. Adopted by the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees on February 11, 2016.

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
- · Discount on photo reproduction fees
- 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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