SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26, No. 2 August 2007

Tally Ho!



PROUD OWNERS AND WELL-BEHAVED DOGS take their places at the judging platform during the Benton County Fox Hunters Association annual fox hunt in 1956. *Howard Clark collection/Howard Clark, photographer*

In honor of Open Season, our new exhibit about hunting, we share this story written in 1956 by freelance journalist Caroline Clark of Springdale. The accompanying photo was taken by her husband, Howard. The Clarks often teamed up to produce articles for local and national newspapers and magazines. Caroline donated Howard's photo negatives to the Shiloh Museum in 1981.

F YOU THINK AN ARKANSAS FOX HUNT is just a matter involving a dog and a fox, a surprise awaits you some crisp night on a wooded creek bank. In fact, the saying "Everybody and his dog was there" might have been coined to describe an affair like the 63rd annual fox hunt sponsored by the Northwest Arkansas Fox Hunters Association in Benton County last month.

"Everybody" includes blanket-wrapped babies, scampering youngsters, hand-holding teenagers, parents, grandparents and oldtimers who can remember when a fox hunt was strictly for the menfolk. Part of it all, in one way or another, are judges, ringmasters, loudspeakers, campfires, trucks, jalopies and station wagons; a huge supply of wieners, buns and pies, and countless mugs of steaming coffee dispensed by the women of the community; a record-player broadcasting gospel songs and rock 'n' roll during interludes in the scheduled program; dog-food salesmen lending

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Allyn Lord



There's been a lot in the news lately about the new guidelines for teaching Arkansas history in public schools. No matter whether a moratorium on, or implementation of, the guidelines takes place this year, Clio, the muse of history, surely

must be smiling to hear a statewide discussion about the value of Arkansas history.

Local history, like Arkansas history, is about so much more than pride of place. It's true that a feeling of worth gained from honoring where we live or come from can be personally rewarding. And surely, for those of us who call Arkansas home, that pride is one way to overcome the negative stereotypes that are often associated with this area of the country.

But learning about local or Arkansas history can mean so much more. It can help us find roots and a sense of tradition in what has become an increasingly mobile society. It can provide an understanding of what makes a local community special in the growing McDonaldization of the country. With the burgeoning interest in genealogy, it can offer a context for our family's history and an appreciation of individuals' place in that history.

Local history benefits all of us. It feeds the historic preservation movement which has helped us maintain, restore, or reuse older buildings. It fuels interest in folk culture. It drives oral histories, the spoken, visual, or written recordings of our lives. It even buoys environmentalism and connects with city boosterism through such agencies as chambers of commerce

First and foremost, however, local history connects each of us directly to what's come before us. We can identify with stories of the now-gone Accident school or the flooding of Beaver Lake or the struggle to blend into a new community. We can see local history in old buildings, in photographs, in museum collections. We can sense historical change and relate to our part in it.

Learning about local or Arkansas history is learning about ourselves. Surely that can't be watered down or eliminated from school curriculum.

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

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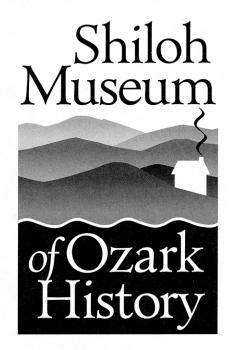
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A Brand-new Brand

THERE ARE MANY WAYS by which people come to know about a museum . . . advertisements, programs, events, signs. Perhaps a more subtle way people identify with a museum is by its logo, a symbol which represents the museum.

The Shiloh Museum's logo – a man and woman with mountains in the background and town and country buildings in the foreground – was developed in 1986. It was intended to show the many elements the museum represented, and it's served us well for 20 years. But today that logo has more of a quaint look, one often described as similar to Grant Wood's *American Gothic*, and one which, at least to some people, was a very white, very parochial representation of Northwest Arkansas.

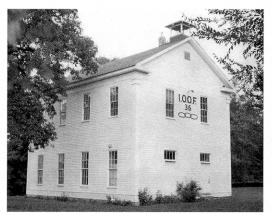
This year the museum board and staff have been working to develop a new logo to represent the museum of the 21st century. Our discussions about what we wanted the logo to depict were substantive and represented multiple viewpoints. One stated desire was to depict what was at the heart of the museum's mission: the Arkansas Ozarks. We also wanted the logo to speak to our passion: being a welcoming, friendly place where people feel at home.



After months of discussions and tinkering and the assistance of Liz Lester Design, with this newsletter we're proud to formally unveil our new logo to our members and the public. The Ozark Mountains are prominent, as is an important part of our name, "Ozark History." And nestled in those mountains is a home where smoke snakes up from the chimney, a representation of the homey, warm feeling we know people experience at the museum.

As our new logo is introduced, we hope that you'll decide to pay us another visit, check out our website, take part in one of our programs, make use of our research library, have a picnic on our grounds, or consider donating your family heritage to our collections. As we continue to update and upgrade, we are, at the heart, the place in Northwest Arkansas where your history matters.

Shiloh Meeting Hall Update



WHILE HUNTSVILLE AVENUE in Springdale has been under months of major construction to widen it from two lanes to five, the adjacent Shiloh Meeting Hall has continued its guardianship of the land that was once the town square of Shiloh. The 1871 building is now long overdue for some "R and R."

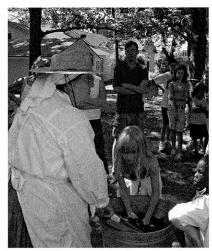
That will begin before the end of this year, thanks to a \$69,448 grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and \$34,724 in match money from the City's Community Development Block Grant program. With these funds, the exterior of the Meeting Hall will be restored to its condition in the 1930s, the appearance it had for the longest period in its history. The work will include the repair and painting of the existing

wood clapboard, trim, and windows, restoration of the four exterior doors, and removal of the concrete steps and replacement with wood steps and landings.

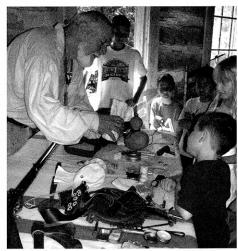
This restoration work will continue through May 2008, at which time we hope to be able to raise or find funds to continue work on the Meeting Hall's roof and its interior. As you drive along the newly expanded Huntsville Avenue, be sure to recognize the work being done on this Springdale sentinel.

Who Knew Work Could Be So Much Fun?

Several of our volunteers spent a recent Saturday morning demonstrating old-time chores. As you can see from these photos, visitors of all ages participated in the fun.



It was laundry day with **Debbie Reed**, who shared her washboard, lye soap, and a pile of dirty clothes.



Visitors to the log cabin found **Larry Shivel** recreating the life of a wilderness hunter.



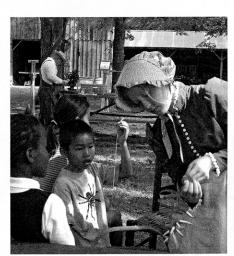
A crunchy apple was the reward for helping **Walter Reed** crank the apple peeler.



After a brief lesson in quilting, **Marilyn Meek** invited visitors to sew a few stitches at the quilting frame.

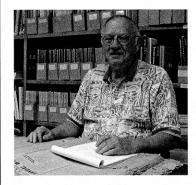


Danielle Hansen showed how to card and spin cotton and wool.



Kyndall Wood and her grandmother, **Barbara Roberts** (out of view in this photo) were stringing green beans for drying;the pioneers called them "leather britches."

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



This column is written by museum volunteers to give us a closer look at the projects they are working on.

Bill Jones

During the past year I have been perusing old copies of the *Springdale News* for obituaries to be computerized and used by the public in genealogical research.

I have covered the period from 1915 to 1944 with a few scattered gaps. It has been a fascinating journey through World War I, the terrible flu epidemic of 1918, the depression, and World War II.

Entire families were wiped out during the flu epidemic, yet some communities didn't experience a single case. Typhoid fever and smallpox were relatively common.

Snake oil medicines that claimed to cure absolutely everything were heavily advertised up until World War II. I think they finally discovered the medicines were 95% alcohol. These were also the days of 99¢ dresses and \$2.98 men's suits.

From 1915 to the mid-1930s, deaths were mainly reported in columns mailed to the paper from correspondents in tiny communities such as Accident, Crooked Lane, and Black Oak. Many times the writer would just say "Uncle Ben Johnson died Saturday," and that was it.

Many interesting and amusing things were covered in these community columns. One fellow said he saw an "aeroplane in the sky north of Springdale." Half the people said he was crazy and the other half just rolled their eyes. Another correspondent told of a man attending a church party: on the way home he climbed up on a stump then fell off the stump and hit his head on a hailstone. That must have been some kind of party! The first time an automobile came to St. Paul was said to be like Christmas. Sometimes people were reported to have died only to turn up alive later in places like Pocatello, Idaho, or Texas.

I am looking forward to filling in the gaps from this era, and heading toward the future of the 1950s.



BACK IN 1967, the year before the Shiloh Museum's grand opening, you could buy a first-class stamp for 5¢, a gallon of gas for 33¢, and a new home for an average price of \$24,600. And anyone interested in supporting the fledgling museum could purchase a basic membership for as little as \$10.

Flash forward 40 years to 2007, when a stamp costs 41¢, gas goes for about \$2.90, and a new home? The median price in Northwest Arkansas is \$186,506 this year. Considering inflation, those are 37%, 46%, and 26% increases, respectively.

Has the museum kept pace? The basic membership you could buy in 1967 for \$10, with inflation, today would cost \$60! But the museum's individual dues have only risen to \$12.

The Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees recently voted to raise the lower tier of membership rates by 25% to adjust for increasing costs for newsletter production and other dues-related expenses. This increase will make an individual membership only \$15, a bargain considering that inflation-based rate of \$60!

When considering a new membership or renewing one, please give as generously as you can, knowing that the museum exists not just for today but for your children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, well into the future. The new membership rates are listed on the membership form on the inside back cover of this newsletter. We appreciate every member, no matter at what membership level you join. Every dollar helps preserve our history.

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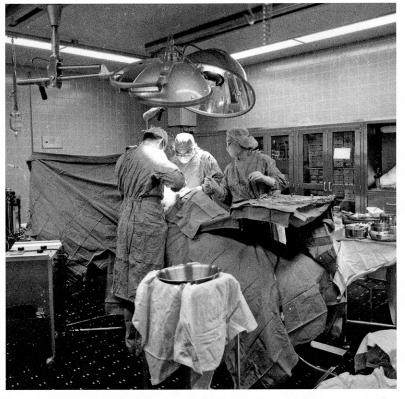
- Cemeteries of Benton County, Arkansas (nine volumes, \$15 each) by the Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society.
- City directories, especially ones from Fayetteville and Springdale in the 1940s and 1950s

For collections:

- 5-tier wire steel chrome shelving units with casters (\$100 each)
- garment racks (\$100 each)
- heavy-duty metal rack storage (\$1,000)

Thanks to these folks who made some of our previous Wish List wishes come true!

- Ann Sugg and Mary Ann Roscopf for missing issues of Flashback
- Washington County Arkansas
 Genealogical Society for volumes
 9-12 of Cemeteries of Washington
 County, Arkansas.
- Mira Leister for hands-on items to be used in education programs



The Shiloh Museum and the Arkansas Country Doctor Museum are partnering to collect the history of health care professionals in Springdale through the years. Anyone with information about doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health care workers who have worked in Springdale is invited to attend a drop-in reception at the Shiloh Museum, Saturday, October 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Dr. Joe B. Hall, who is spearheading an oral history project for the Country Doctor Museum, will discuss his work during a short program at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Hall will be conducting oral history interviews during the reception; the Shiloh Museum will be copying photographs and paper items.

DONATIONS

April - June 2007

Carolyn Bayley: Photograph of Co. A, Springdale, Ark., WWI

Peggy Bennett: Paper items from Fine Arts Center, Chamber of Commerce, High School, Springdale; from the Hollis Bennett family, mid-1900s

Pat Brown: Egg and pig ice cream molds from Ward's Ice Cream, Fayetteville, 1940s

Reeva Clark: Campaign button and pencil; Steele Canning Co. ice scraper; Coger Drugstore pill bottle; photographs of Rodeo of the Ozarks parade, late 1940s, employees of Southwestern Electric Power Co., Springdale, 1964

Zane Graham: Land deeds along Washington/Benton county line, including Butler Ford Cemetery, 1850s-1900s

Harp's Food Store (Gwen Brown): Check and signature printing machine, Harp's Food Stores, Springdale, ca. 1965 Martin and Ann Holbrook: Graniteware canning kettle, Prairie Grove, ca. 1950

Doug Keeney: Diploma; Junior-Senior Banquet program; class play program; report cards; graduation cards; all belonging to Willie Doris Calico, from Pea Ridge, Carroll County, and Arkansas State Vocational School, Huntsville, 1925-1933.

Wayne Martin: Bottles, boxes, jar, blotters from Mooney-Barker Drugstore; stave blade; skinning boards; craft dolls; potholders; IOOF badge; papers and photograph of A.P. Barker; all from Pettigrew (Madison County)

Jim Morriss: Masonic hat and apron; Masonic Monitor; Siloam Springs Chapter of the Eastern Star yearbooks; Masonic and Eastern Star membership records of Elmer Dillard "Johnny" Stewart and Sada Morriss Stewart, Siloam Springs, ca. 1955

James Pool: Typewriting Technique, from Fayetteville Business College, ca. 1940

Johnny (Jon) Schader: Ladderback chairs and stool; pin cushion; flatware; home items from the Schader and Caselman families, Sunset (Washington County), 1900s

John L. Williamson: Reprint photograph of apple pickers by C.S. Bouton, Springdale, ca. 1900

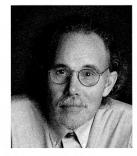
Oleta Wilson: Baby shoes and photographs from the Holland and Wilson families, Farmington, 1900s

Want to learn more about artifacts in our collection?

Visit our website at www.springdaleark.org/shiloh and click on "Artifact of the Month."

Our Two Newest Faces

Two new part-time staff members joined the Shiloh Museum recently.



Don House, the museum's new photographer, is certainly no stranger to the photography world. A photography artist for 30 years, Don is perhaps best known for his black-and-white imagery. You may have seen exhibits of his work at the Walton Arts Center, the University of Arkansas, the Sager Creek Arts Center, or the Arts Center of the Ozarks. For the museum, Don will turn his talents to the darkroom, where he will use traditional methods to produce black and white prints for museum patrons and for exhibits. *Photo by Denise Georgiou*



If you visit the museum on Saturdays, you will likely see the smiling face of **Jacanna Wyatt**, our new weekend assistant. A doctoral candidate in history at the University of Arkansas, Jacanna is a native of Berryville. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville and a master's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Jacanna also served as a quartermaster officer with the United States Army, with a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Fox Hunt

From page 1

a hand in exchange for the privilege of plugging their wares; tons of warm bedding forming the nucleus for family camp sites; and one large, bright, moon shedding a glamorous glow over it all.

"Everybody's dog," however, is a gross understatement. Some owners bring strings of six or eight, or even 16.

Lean, gentle hounds with names like Susannah, Mabel and Razorback Sam, they patiently allow themselves to be posed, petted and bragged on. Some are valued as high as \$400. Others "couldn't be bought for \$1,000." At the bench show they are divided into groups according to age and sex, and carefully rated as to head, body, running gear, coat and tail.

The fox? Oh yes, the fox. Well, he may and he may not figure in the proceedings. If the countryside is dry, it's hard for the dogs to pick up a scent, so likely a drag race will be staged. This entails sending a horse galloping through the woods pulling the hide of a dead fox behind him, the dogs following in hot pursuit.

Maybe they won't even use a real fox hide. A heavy sack sprinkled with a preparation that smells like a fox is often substituted. A mean trick to play on a dog? Hunters say no. The dogs seldom catch the fox anyway, even though they're bred for speed. From the hunter's viewpoint, the drag race serves the purpose quite well, too—same being to prove that your dog can outrun all the others and have

plenty of pep left over. It's only the fox that misses out on the fun. If you can believe the talk around the campfires, foxes consider the race a sporting proposition and probably resent being cheated by scientific scents.

During the race, which usually starts late at night, everybody who can stay awake sits around the campfires and follows the pack by ear. Everyone knows the voice of his own dog, and the baying reveals which ones are in the lead. However, judges are stationed along the route, just in case the hunters fail to tune in correctly. Of course, a dog who refuses to "open up" (give out with a strong bay) is a sorry dog on a fox hunt.

Sociability is the essence of such an occasion. Just approach a group with "Howdy! Howdy, everybody!"—and immediately you're in. The talk is mostly about dogs, but there's a sprinkling of miscellaneous anecdotes.

- "... and I'd sell, but 1 wouldn't swap. What'd I want to swap dogs for? Couldn't better myself."
- "... brave in the body, that fellow was, but his feet wouldn't stand. He ran so fast his shirt tail couldn't keep up with him."

"Never feed my dogs a bite the day of the show. Don't want their stomachs a-saggin."

Up at the combination kitchen and dining room, the ladies are sociable on the run between stoves and planktopped tables.

- "Four fried eggs? Somebody tell you it was time for breakfast?"
- "... business keeps up like this, we'll make enough money to reroof the church house."

"Sorry, mister—you'll either have to wait for the next pot of coffee or settle for soda pop."

"I remember the first fox hunt I ever went to. Weather was fine till the last day, but on the way home the Model T froze up."

Fiddlers, horn-blowers and singers take turns on the stage under the oak trees. The master of ceremonies keeps the fun going, holding a mug of coffee in one hand and gesturing with the other. "Folks, you should been up here when that fellow sang *I Love You*. Girl on the front row closed her eyes and I swear if I didn't think she was gonna float right up here on the platform!"

The dust hangs low in the valley as the neighborhood cars pull out for home. Campers with flashlights go back to their cars for warmer jackets. The dogs, tied to trees and trucks, set up a mournful baying.

"... sweetest music in the world," a hunter remarks, "next to two fiddles and a violin." *

Help Wanted: Proofreader/Puzzle Solver

Proofreader wanted for volunteer work in the research library. Work involves examining identification sheets against typed copy. If you are detail oriented, enjoy looking at old photos, and like to solve puzzles, please contact Marie Demeroukas at 750-8165. *Thanks!*



Visit our website! www.springdaleark.org/shiloh

CALENDAR

Through October 27. 20th Century Quilts exhibit.

Through January 19, 2008. Open Season, an exhibit on hunting in the Ozarks.

August 24-December 20. Ozarks at Play, a photo exhibit about having fun in the Ozarks.

September 7–8. "Talking Ozarks" symposium sponsored by Arkansas State University's Folklife Program and the Center for Ozark Living Traditions.

September 8. 31st Ozark Quilt Fair (rain date Sept. 15).

September 19, noon. Shiloh Sandwiched-In program celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

September 29. Fishback School reunion for former students, teachers, and friends of this Washington County school.

October 17, noon. "Caving in the Ozarks," a program by members of the Boston Mountain Grotto of the National Speleological Society.

October 12-13. "Cherokee Footsteps in Northwest Arkansas" symposium. A partner project with Heritage Trail Partners.

October 20, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Drop-in reception honoring doctors, nurses, and health care professionals who worked in Springdale. A partner project with the Arkansas Country Doctor Museum.

October 27. Accident School reunion for former students, teachers, and friends of this rural Benton County school.

November 4. 6th Annual Tontitown Polenta Smear, a celebration of the rich heritage of this Italian community. A partner project with the Tontitown Historical Museum; held at St. Joseph Parish Hall in Tontitown.

November 19-June 8, 2008. Tech-Knowledge-Gee!, a hands-on exhibit about communication.

November 21, noon. "Where the Wild Foods Are," a program by Phyllis Speer, regional education coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

December 2. 31st Holiday Open House, featuring a slide program and booksigning by nature photographer Tim Ernst, who will share images from his new book, Arkansas Waterfalls: Scenic Icons of the Natural State.

December 21-April 26, 2008. Scenes of Boone County photo exhibit.

January 16, noon. "From Morse to Mars," a program on the history of communication by Bruce Vaughan of Springdale.

February 1–July 6. Play Ball!, an exhibit about the history of baseball in Northwest Arkansas.

February 20, noon. "The Evolution of a Baseball Team," a program by Eric Edelstein, general manager of the Northwest Arkansas Naturals minor league team.

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

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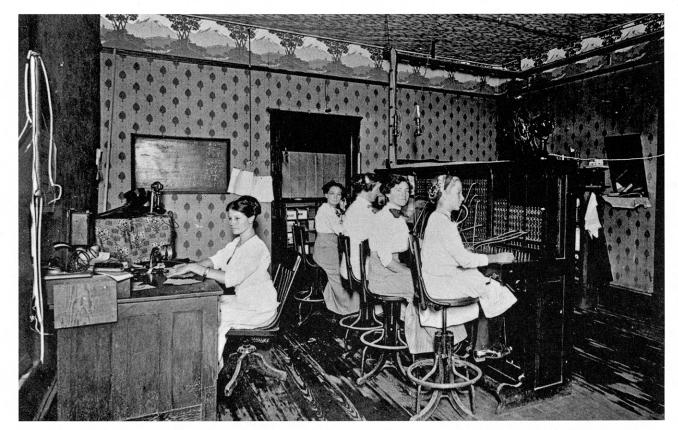
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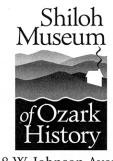
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NUMBER, PLEASE. Switchboard operators at the Harrison telephone company are ready to make calls go through in this early 1900s photo. Try out a switchboard for yourself in our new hands-on exhibit about communication, *Tech-Knowledge-Gee!*, which opens November 19. *Courtesy Carroll County Heritage Center*



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