Invasion of the Pod(cast) People

Heather Marie Wells
Collections Assistant/Podcast Producer

Recently I had the privilege of attending the joint annual meeting of the Arkansas Museum Association and the Southeastern Museums Conference in Little Rock. It is my honor to announce that at the conference our podcasting program won the Arkansas Museum Association's award for the 2006 Best Educational Program for Adults and Families.

For those who might not be familiar with podcasts, they are audio files available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or personal audio player. You can choose individual podcasts or subscribe to a regular series of programs as you would a newspaper or cable television. One misconception about podcasts is that you must have an MP3 player to listen to them, but this is not the case. Many people listen to podcasts on their computer using audio software such as Windows Media Player, iTunes, or Winamp. To listen to podcasts away from your computer, a personal audio player capable of playing MP3 files is necessary. If you don’t have an MP3 player, you can burn the podcast onto a CD for playback in a CD player.

PODCASTS allow you to listen to Shiloh Museum programs wherever you are, whenever you want.

Shiloh began producing podcasts in 2006. We were the first museum in the state to do so; today, the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum is the only other Arkansas museum active in the podcast field. I’m proud that Shiloh is a leader in utilizing this new technology and I hope that other museums in the state will follow in our footsteps soon. In my opinion, podcasting is a way to attract new (oftentimes younger) visitors, to make programs available to visitors at their convenience, and to reach wider audiences geographically.

The success of our podcast program is very encouraging to me. When my husband, Ryan Wells, and I first proposed the idea of podcasting to museum director Allyn Lord we weren’t sure if there would be a demand or desire for it. Our doubts were a waste of time. I’m always delighted when visitors come in to attend one of our programs and they ask if we will be recording it. Now the answer is “Yes! You’ll be able to listen to the program as a podcast.”

Currently, I’m the only one editing the recordings (with occasional volunteer help from Ryan), and this has to be worked into all my other regular duties. So while my goal is to provide at least one new episode a month I don’t always reach that goal if there are other museum projects such as new exhibits or special events that are higher priority. Even...
Two recent events in the news started me thinking about the intersection of history and preservation, and both of them tie me to my brother.

Keith lives in southern California and, as I write this, he’s about 15 miles from one of the still-raging wildfires. Our hearts always go out to those whose homes lie in the path of such natural disasters, and when we watch the news we can’t help but wonder what we might do in similar circumstances.

Given the blink-of-the-eye speed with which you may have to leave your home, what would you gather up to take with you? How accessible is it in an instant? When I ask people this, among the items at the top of their lists are photographs and items handed down through generations. Why these things? What’s their value?

And what about the value of what’s left after a disaster? You’ve seen the news. People who’ve finally been able to return to what’s left of their homes, slowly poring over the small, sometimes unrecognizable pieces of what was once the material sum of their lives, now virtually gone. Why are the charred wedding photo and the shard of grandma’s teacup so important? What’s their value?

The other event (and please understand that my brother and I grew up in Massachusetts) was the Boston Red Sox winning the World Series. For those of you not familiar with the Bosox story, the team won the World Series five times between 1903 and 1918 and then went 86 years before their next pennant in 2004. Following the recent championship game, sportscasters wanted to know whether this win was as rewarding as that in 2004. The answer by owner John Henry gave me pause. He said that the 2004 win was for his parents and grandparents who never got to see a World Series title, but that this year’s win was for his generation, his children, and his grandchildren, to give them something to remember and take with them.

Some of the things we own, such as photographs or family heirlooms, help define us, explain us, and tell our history. Other things, which most of the time are no more than mere knick-knacks, can become valuable when they serve as tangible reminders of a life, a place, an experience. Likewise, the stories which define our lives are also of value, but they can only be saved when they’re handed down to others. These pieces of our lives, whether keepsakes and heirlooms, everyday objects that carry our fingerprints, or the stories which weave together our history, our eccentricities, and our once-in-86-years accomplishments—these preserve who we are and show that we matter.

Board of Trustees
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* deceased

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.springdaleark.org • shiloh@springdaleark.org
Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. • Free Admission
He's Making a List...

SANTA visits with two youngsters on the Fayetteville square in the 1940s.
Washington County Historical Society Collection

Join us for our 31st Annual Open House, Sunday, December 2, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. George Elementary School’s Shakespeare Troupe will perform scenes from Romeo and Juliet at 1:00 p.m. Nature photographer Tim Ernst will present a slide program featuring images from his newest book, Arkansas Waterfalls, at 2:00 p.m. An ornament workshop for kids will be held in the Museum’s general store throughout the afternoon.

Other highlights include a Civil War-era Christmas in the Museum’s log cabin with the Sons of Confederate Veterans, an art exhibit by Hellstern Middle School students, gingerbread houses by Springdale school students, silent Christmas movies, dulcimer music by Mitsy Kellam, homemade goodies, and a chance to visit with Santa Claus!

A New Way to Give

IF YOU’RE 70½ YEARS OR OLDER, you can now give more for less – and make a real difference through a gift to the Museum’s endowment. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 spelled out this charitable-giving incentive, but it’s only good through the end of 2007.

Through the end of the year you can transfer up to $100,000 of your IRA assets to the Museum endowment tax-free. The transaction incurs no federal income tax and the asset is no longer part of your estate for tax purposes. You can choose to give during your lifetime so that you (and your community) can see results sooner than if your gift had been made through your estate.

How does it work? By December 31, make a gift of up to $100,000 by transferring IRA assets to the Museum’s endowment fund. (If you’re married, each spouse can transfer up to $100,000 from his or her IRA.) You can do this by calling the Museum (750-8165) or more directly by contacting the Northwest Arkansas Community Foundation in Springdale (361-4624) and telling them you wish to contribute to the Museum’s endowment fund. Alternatively, your financial advisor or estate planner can make the contact for you. Your gift will be invested and will grow over time and the money stays here in Northwest Arkansas.

The Shiloh Museum has benefited many times over by the generosity and foresight of many in our community. Future gifts help provide financial stability for the Museum, help us preserve our historic photos and artifacts for our children and our children’s children, and help us serve schoolchildren, seniors, tourists, and the entire community.
DONATIONS
July – September 2007

Dorothy Fitzgerald Allen: First State Bank money bag, Springdale, mid-1900s

Charles S. and Jan Applegate: Lady Washington parlor box stove; level; bow saw; wood planes; painted oak bucket; mustache cups and saucers; silverplate cups; silverplate spooner; miner’s oil lamp; juicer; 1800s-1900s, all from the Lockwood and Annabel Searcy family


Kirby and Martha Estes: Christmas music box, ca. 1940; Polk’s Fayetteville city directories, 1987, 1991

Orville J. Hall, Jr.: Chest of drawers made by Michael Kahl, 1854, brought to Springdale by Jennie Kahl Hall, 1914; framed photograph of Michael and Susannah Kahl

Eileen Hendricks: Painting of collie puppy by Peggy Ann McCormack, ca. 1960

Marsha Johnson: Ampex AG-440C reel-to-reel tape recorder/reproducer and accessories, used at Ben Jack’s Guitar Center, Fayetteville, 1975

Sarah King: Photocopies of diaries and receipts kept by Milton Kendrick Cooper, Cannon Creek, Madison County, 1979-1995

Mira Leister: Handcrafted recipe card holder made by Martin J. Bradley, Mountainburg, purchased at Mt. Gayler, 1975

Allyn Lord: Bella Vista Dancing Pavilion postcard, 1920s

Jeanne Kapp McAllister: Fayetteville High School graduation announcement, 1947; teacher’s letter, 1946; class photograph, 1947; reunion photograph, 1988

Steve Meldrum: Scrapbooks, photographs, and papers from the families of Benjamin Franklin Campbell, James Gregory, and Mary Campbell Gregory, Fayetteville, late 1800s-2005


Katherine Netto: Odd Fellow and Rebekah books, certificates, medals, etc., of Sam E. B. Morton and Katherine Morton, 1950s-1990s, Springdale

John Robinson: Andirons from the John Henry Robinson family, Madison County, mid-late 1800s; cream separator; flour bin/sifter; egg crate from the Dave Cowan family, Greenland, Washington County, ca. 1940s

Annette Scogin: Springdale Bulldog football 100th Anniversary T-shirt, 1907-2007

Charles Teeter: Child’s bonnet; knit stockings, ca. 1900; WWI diaries; photographs from the Atkinson family, Springdale, 1920s

Betty Thomas: Photograph of Fred Watson, Elmer Johnson, Jimmy Highfill, Joe Steele and James Littrell at water main, Springdale, August 1959

Washington County Historical Society: University of Arkansas student directories, 1955-1971; College of Engineering Directory, 1881-1951; Announcements of the College of Arts and Sciences, 1971-72; Poems, University City Poetry Club, June 1955

Thank you for lending photographs for copying:
Dannie Bryan, Cheri Coley, William Flanagan, Orville and Susan Hall, Earlene Brown Henry, Robbie Miller, Ruth Patrick, Pauline Thacker

Want to learn more about artifacts in our collection? Visit our website at www.springdaleark.org/shiloh and click on “Artifact of the Month.”

Volunteer Help Wanted

Front Desk Greeter. Welcome visitors and provide information, assist customers with sales in the Shiloh Museum Store, and help staff members with various projects that can be done while at the reception desk (such as preparing mailouts, researching in old newspapers, and organizing photographs). Qualifications: A friendly smile and helpful attitude. Time commitment is a minimum of four hours per month. Greeters are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. If you’re interested, call Susan Young, 750-8165.
**Wish List**

For our research library:
- Twenty-five Years of Marriage Records for Washington County, 1845-1969, by the Washington County Historical Society
- 1880 Madison County Census, by the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society ($35)
- 1900 Madison County Census, by the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society ($47.50)
- 1920 Madison County Census (2 volumes), by the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society ($25 each)
- 1930 Madison County Census (2 volumes), by the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society ($25 each)
- Obituaries of Washington County, vol. 3, by Easley and McAnelly

For our education programs:
- HP Scanjet G3010 photo scanner ($100)
- Adobe Photoshop Elements ($100)

For collections:
- Wood platform dollies 16 x 24 and 18 x 30 ($50 each)
- 5-tier wire steel shelves on wheels ($90 each)
- Bulk shelving (contact Carolyn Reno for details)

For our podcast program:
- Panasonic SDR-H18 ($500) or Sony DCR-SR82 ($600) digital video camera
- Pinnacle Dazzle USB 2.0 video capture device ($100)
- Adobe Premiere Elements ($100)
- tripod ($50)

For our meeting room:
- Floor length podium on wheels with gooseneck microphone holder and lamp ($1600)

**Thanks to these folks who made some of our previous Wish List wishes come true!**
- Al Einert for funds to pay for all nine volumes of the Cemeteries of Benton County
- Kirby Estes for 1987 and 1991 Fayetteville directories
- Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society for The Huntsville Massacre
- Ada Lee Shook for numerous local history books
- Dolores Stamps for Discovery Box crates

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**Two New Faces**

Mark Gwatney is our new maintenance person. Born in Texas, Mark is a self-proclaimed Air Force brat who has lived all over the United States. He graduated from high school in Wheatland, California, a small town in northern California. How small? There were 17 students in Mark’s graduating class! After high school, Mark worked as a forest firefighter, and then for California State Parks. He moved to Rogers in 1992. Mark and his wife Laura have four children and one grandson. His hobbies include woodworking, fishing, camping, and snowboarding.

Our new education assistant is Alma Cruz. Just like Mark, Alma calls herself an Air Force brat; she also calls several places home. A recent graduate of the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Alma now makes her home in Springdale along with husband Richard and lab puppy Josie. In her spare time, Alma enjoys visiting Civil War battlefields, museum hopping, antique shopping with friends, and taking Josie and Richard camping and exploring in the many lovely parks the Natural State has to offer.

The readers of *Citiscapes* magazine have voted the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History the “Best Museum in Northwest Arkansas” for 2007. We appreciate the readers of *Citiscapes* and their vote of confidence.
given the challenge of juggling multiple duties, however, this is an exciting time for our podcast project. We’re expanding our offerings to include audio tours of the museum grounds and selected museum exhibits. We are also working on video podcasts. These are being produced entirely by volunteers who are donating their expertise as well as the use of their video editing equipment.

As collections assistant, I am also interested in using podcasting to make more of the museum’s artifacts accessible to the public. The technology is available to create a “virtual tour” on our website that would include artifact photos accompanied by audio descriptions. The idea appeals to me because, with over 400,000 artifacts in our collection and only a fraction of those on exhibit at any given time, a virtual exhibit would be a way for us to share these collections in some small way.

At this point, our podcast possibilities seem unlimited. We’re challenging ourselves to think outside the box and use up-to-date technology to provide new avenues of outreach and education. I invite you to think outside the box with us, and let us know what you would be interested in seeing, or should I say, hearing! 🎧

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**How to Download Individual Shiloh Museum Podcast Programs**

1. Go to our webpage, http://www.springdaleark.org/shiloh/podcasts/podcast_info.htm

2. Select an episode and right-click on “Download Link”

3. Select “Save Target As” and save the episode to your computer

**How to Subscribe to the Shiloh Museum Podcast Series**

To subscribe to our podcasts, you will need to have special computer software called an “aggregator” or “podcatcher.” Most podcatchers are free; two commonly-used programs are iTunes and Juice. Once you have the software, you can subscribe to our podcasts by following the link on our website at www.springdaleark.org/shiloh, finding it in the directory provided by your software, or by pasting a special web address into your software. Your podcast software will have specific directions on how to subscribe.

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**Collections manager Carolyn Reno** (right) was the guest speaker recently at a quilt show-and-tell program hosted by the Newton County Library in Jasper. This unique Scotty dog quilt was one of over 20 heirloom quilts brought in for sharing.
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.

☐ Check here if you would like to receive your newsletter by email.

Email address ________________________________

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
A NATURAL AROUND HERE FOR A LONG TIME. Springdale baseball players pose with some well-dressed fans and/or coaches in this ca.1915 photo. Make sure you’re on deck to see Play Ball, our new exhibit about baseball in Northwest Arkansas, opening February 1. Arkansas Naturals general manager Eric Edelstein will discuss “The Evolution of a Baseball Franchise,” on February 20 at noon. Courtesy Donna Van Hoose Hahn