



THE ARTIFACT

Newsletter of the Cassidy Park Historical Museums

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2013

New at the Pioneer Museum

The recent renovations to the Pioneer Museum resulted not only in a new classroom, but more exhibit space in the main gallery as well.

The Main Gallery now includes a gift shop featuring toys and other articles of the Museum's period of interest—late 1700's to 1950's.



Museum visitors, after signing the register (a valuable tool in determining programs and obtaining funding) are directed to the Early Pioneer room. Russ Williams, curator of 18th and 19th century, author and former university professor, has included artifacts from Bogalusa's brush with fame when Gen. Andrew Jackson brought his troops through this area. Church life, school life, farm life, a room furnished as an early Washington Parish settler's kitchen are reflected in the artifacts. An exhibit of Civil War memorabilia includes a war widow's mourning dress, as well as recently discovered battlefield artifacts.

The new exhibit space allows more space for the history of the founding and development of the Magic City when Bogalusa quickly became the fifth largest city in Louisiana.

Artifacts from the first tent city built by and for the 9,000 workers—local and immigrant—who answered company employment calls from as far away as Italy. The major artifact is a section of the trunk of the giant magnolia tree that became one of the first structures in the tent city and was named "The Magnolia Hotel." It stood in Cassidy Park near the creek on Willis Avenue and was recently rescued from the bottom of a pile of Katrina debris. It stands now, with the iron band and rings used to support the roof of the great office, mess hall, and dormitory, recently installed in the Pioneer Museum.

Other exhibits include Magic City's astonishingly handsome architecture by architects brought from New York for the planning and construction, early Columbia Street and city retail businesses.

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Native American Museum Exhibits

by Lorraine Bourn

The “peace pipe” has always been a familiar item to those of us who watched the “cowboy and Indian” movies growing up. Little did we understand the importance of the pipe to the Native American culture. As you examine our current exhibit of pipes noting the workmanship it becomes evident that these pipes held a very special role. Drilling and carving stone is no easy job! We have 55 pipes for you to view. You’ll see the “cloud blower”, platform pipe, many effigy pipes all made of various stones or clay. Some effigy pipes depict hair styles, ornaments, and symbolic markings like the “weeping eye” motif. Soft stone was generally used, such as steatite (soapstone), pipe-stone, catlinite (a red stone found only in one place in southwest Minnesota), limestone, sandstone, slate, etc., and fired clay in later periods.



Also from Mr. Broussard is a collection of 10 sacred stone masks. Old? Did you say old? How about 500 B.C. to 500 A.D.! Two of the masks are Mayan...the Jade and the white alabaster. The large stone masks date from the Mississippian Period c. 1000-1500 AD. These masks were found in southeastern part of the US. If you haven’t visited the museum to view these exhibits, come soon. You would have to travel many miles to find a more extensive and finer collection. And then, I am not sure if even then you could top this exhibit.

Our thanks to Francis Broussard for sharing his collection with us.

On the hunt.....

Children are enjoying the scavenger hunt in the Native American Museum. “What is the name of the spear that had a special handle that allowed it to be thrown farther?” Learning can be fun! The Children’s Activity Area has table and chairs where one can sit and weave on a loom, color a Native American picture, weave wood slats, sit in a rocking chair to read a book, go on the scavenger hunt or crawl into the Palmetto hut for a close up look. Each Saturday we have a special activity...making a bead necklace or a clay pot. It has been great fun for the children and docents alike.



Notes

Attendance for 2012

We had a total of 4,474 visitors sign our guest book in 2012. Keeping in mind that the Pioneer Museum was closed for renovation for almost six months, that we open only on weekends for a total of six hours and during Christmas in the Park, and that a good percentage of visitors do not sign the book, the figures are stupendous. A breakdown shows that of the total 3,784 were from Louisiana with 2,261 of them from Bogalusa, 561 from Mississippi, 61 from other states, 5 from other countries, and 58 did not give a home location.

“Who’s your daddy?”

Interested in learning about your genealogy? Russ Williams has literally “written the book(s)” on the genealogy of Washington Parish and is available at the Pioneer Museum every Saturday. Drop in and learn about relatives you didn’t know were in your family or get tips on how to start your own search.



A Touch of Class

Condensation on the windows across the front of the Native American Museum caused the laminate flooring to deteriorate making a very ugly sight. Patricia and Ovet Branch remedied the situation by replacing the flooring in the whole foyer with a very beautiful classy tile. Their generosity made one proud to be a part of the volunteer team at the museums. Thank you for your kindness.



Our Heritage Garden

Lynda Willems, Curator of our Heritage Garden, has been busy making markers to identify the various native plants and arranging a planting depicting the Circle of Life with the four quadrants. Since she couldn’t find black flowers to represent the West, she chose the closest which was the dark purple. The West signifies spiritual protection, release. The North is represented by the white for cleansing, truth, honesty. The East is red. Since the sun rises in the East we think of new experiences, learning, and wisdom. The yellow is for the South where there is warmth, growth, healing and

strength. The Circle of Life is also represented in our Quilt Square that is featured on the front of the Native American Museum. Plans are in the works for making a garden in front of the Pioneer Museum. If you would like to participate in its planning and execution, call the office at 735-9188. Your suggestions and help is most welcome!

On the Trail



The museums have joined the Quilt Trail. Our quilt squares, designed by Judy Pritchard and painted by Lynda and Mike Willems grace the front of each museum. The Quilt Trail is an initiative to promote tourism on the North Shore.



Each square has a story. The square for the Pioneer Museum has four variations of the company houses that were constructed to house the workers that built the saw mill and Bogalusa. The trees represent the long leaf pines that attracted the Goodyears to the area. The square for the Native American Museum has a hand representing the presence of man and his accomplishments, the circle of life with the four quadrants for the seasons, triangles representing stone points and four feathers as four was a special number.

(continued from page 1)

The Railroad Exhibit, was designed and built by Terry Quinn. Terry is often available at the site to operate the train display, even allowing children to “help.” The railroad has inspired the Museum’s most popular event—the annual (last Sat. in Jan.) Railroad Day which brings overflowing crowds to help remember and celebrate the importance of the major railroad shop and services.

The History of Paper exhibit is the introduction to the museum’s new classroom where the making of hand-made paper is graphically correlated to the commercial production of paper as produced by Bogalusa’s most long lasting and largest employer.

Temple Inland succeeded by International Paper has contributed state of the art tools for the papermaking.

Workshops began in October of this year. Fourteen students have responded and a regular schedule for other workshops and days—week and/or weekends—that the classroom will be available for students to work on a project of their choice. Students will learn to use simpler tools and techniques to produce paper at home as well as have the use of the museum’s superb fiber beater that will make pulp of rags, weeds, wood, etc. as the students’ projects demand. To sign up for a class call 735-9188.



Hear the whistle blow...



Mark your calendar! Saturday, Jan. 26th is our Annual Railroad Day.

Whistle blowing contest, slide show, music, vendors, and much more. Join us for a fun filled day.

Serving Rebel Soup and Hobo Sandwiches.

Museum Board & Staff

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Vice President - Kathy Stuart
Secretary - Jennifer McDow
Treasurer - Patricia Branch

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Senator Ben Nevers
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Registrar - Judith Raborn
Curators -
Russ Williams
Judith Raborn
Lynda Willems
Paper Mill - Millicent Canter
Gift Shop – Judy Pritchard
Heritage Garden -
Lynda Willems

MEETING NOTES:
Board Meetings are held
on the 2nd Tuesday of
each month at 5:30 pm in
the Museum Classroom.
Meetings are always open
to the public.

**Get Involved!
Join Friends of the
Museums!**

Docents Needed
In order to open the
museums we need
two docents in each
museum. That
means we need eight
people each week-
end. Won't you join
our docent team and
volunteer one day a
month? You will
meet new people, see
old friends, and learn
a bit of history at the
same time. Call the
office to volunteer.
735-9188



Our Star!

Donna Knapp, one of our Heritage Craft School participants, recently entered three of her pine needle baskets and won three blue ribbons and Best of Show at the Poplarville Fair. Her baskets were sent to compete in the State Fair in Jackson where she won three more blue ribbons. Congratulations, Donna!

Thank You!

Temple Inland has always been very generous with us. They paid for our much needed computer, gave the City \$10,000 toward the expense of adding the Papermill Classroom, and just recently awarded us a \$2,000 grant. Our sincere thanks to Temple Inland! And now we look forward to our association with International Paper.

\$\$ Where does my money go? \$\$

Have you had a telemarketer call lately? Ask how much of your contribution actually goes to the charity in question. Don't be surprised if it is less than 15%. The rest of your money goes for administrative cost. Do you know how much of your museum membership dues is spent for administrative cost? 0%! That's right! Everyone that works at the museum does so on a voluntary basis...no salary...no one gets paid. All of your dues are used to pay for the museum operations...office supplies, mailing, maintenance, exhibits, education...

Upcoming Events for January

Saturday, Jan. 12th, 10:00—12:00
Pine needle basket class.
Call 985.335.4340 to reserve a space.

Saturday, Jan. 26th,
Railroad Day
Paper Making Demonstration

Children Activities every Sat. In the Native
American Museum

Demonstrating pine needle basket weaving at the Washington Parish Fair attracted a good crowd. We passed out our new museum brochures and had 30 people sign up to take a basket weaving class. Just about all of them were coming from outside Washington Parish. It was great to get our museum known!



Down memory lane....

by Irma Lee Callender

When I was growing up it was an every weekend event to visit St. Tammany Parish. First, Covington, then Mandeville, and at the end of the trip, Abita Springs. You see, my grandparents lived in Covington and Mandeville and my aunt and uncle in Abita Springs.

This particular Sunday afternoon was sunny and bright as we headed back to Bogalusa around mid-afternoon. Daddy was driving, mother in the front seat, my sister "Dody" and I were standing up behind the front seats. As we left Abita Springs, daddy turned right on a cut through gravel road, Junction 59, headed toward the main Highway 21.

Soon after entering the cut through road, we saw a small car parked on the side of the road. The car was headed south with its hood pulled up on the side since automobile hoods then were not pulled from the front. A man was standing near the car flagging us down to stop. A lady was in the car sitting very erect, looking straight ahead.

I was a mere 5 years old, but I remember my mother saying over and over – "don't stop – don't stop!" Daddy being a good listener all the time – he didn't stop. Thank God for that.

Upon seeing that my daddy didn't stop, the man immediately pulled the hood down, got back in the car, turned it around and chased us. Daddy was going as fast as he could. "Dody" and I were crying and really not knowing why a man was chasing us. When we got to the main Highway 21 he stopped chasing us.

Back then there were no TV's only radio and "The Times Picayune." Mother received the paper daily and kept up with the news. She knew that this was the same tactics used by Bonnie & Clyde having read about them over and over again. Daddy always kept a nice automobile and Bonnie & Clyde were known for staling nice cars so that they would not be recognized and kill you in doing so.

Mother and daddy never revealed this to the police after returning to Bogalusa, fearing it was Bonnie & Clyde and of what they might do if they found out who reported them.

It was not long after this, some several weeks or months later, Bonnie & Clyde were killed in north Louisiana. To this day – I'll always say it was Bonnie & Clyde that chased us. They were killed May 23, 1934.

The car Bonnie & Clyde were killed in was brought to Bogalusa in a boxcar on its way to New Orleans by order of the FBI. My daddy working for the railroad knew this and that it was not to be left in the box car that night for some reason. So, it was brought to Wetzler Motor Co. located behind the Washington Bank (now Whitney Bank.) Daddy took me, my sister and mother to the Wetzler Motor Co. that night to see the car. I remember all the bullet holes and even the position the car was placed in the show window – on an angle facing Memphis Street. We, along with other people, walked around it and viewed all the bullet holes.

By the way, my late husband, Virgil Callender, on his way to school, the next morning also viewed the Bonnie & Clyde car. Sam Pepe told me he also saw it.

To make the story even more believable, I have a book on Bonnie and Clyde and in the book it was mentioned that Bonnie and Clyde were known to favor Ford cars. Clyde had even written a letter 6 weeks before his death, to Henry Ford praising his steel-bodies V-8 automobiles, stating that he always stole a Ford when he could get one since the cars used less gasoline and could travel great distances at very fast speeds without requiring maintenance.

By the way, we were in a Ford automobile at the time of the chase – a car purchased by my dad in 1928, the receipt and bill of sale I have.

Our thanks to you, our members, and to our special contributors:

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www.museumsofcassidypark.org

MUSEUM HOURS:
Saturday 1pm to 4pm
Sunday 1pm to 4pm
by appointment for groups

