



THE MUSEUMS OF
CASSIDY PARK

THE ARTIFACT

Newsletter of the Cassidy Park Historical Museums

Volume 1, Issue 2

Summer 2009

Museum of Indian Culture set for summer Grand Re-Opening

AT LONG LAST, the highly anticipated re-opening of the very popular Indian Culture Museum is set to happen this summer.

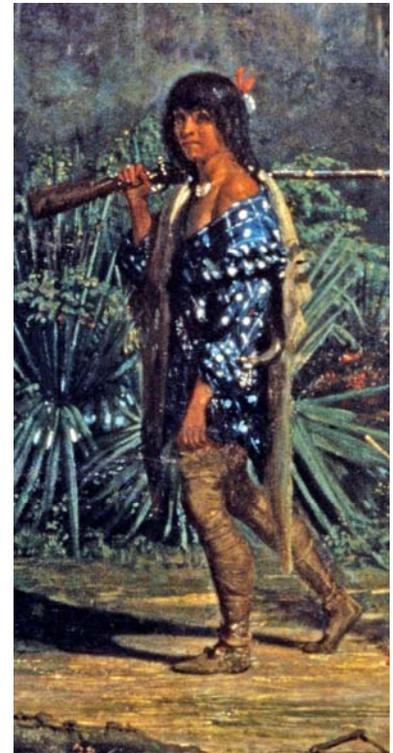
The City of Bogalusa recently replaced the storm damaged roof, repaired and renovated the lighting and air conditioning and will soon refinish the floor. Rotary Club gifts have been designated to further renovate the building. Friends of Cassidy Park Museums have removed black mold from a large area, and built new storage areas.

We have also acquired through grants new display furnishings and equipment awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Rejuvenation is to be done of several of the large geological charts from the original museum. A digital projector has been acquired by grant and a large screen is applied for to enable us to show videos of appropriate historic interest.

The GRAND OPENING will be in conjunction with the Pearl River Wild Game Cook-Off and BBQ, and will also host a Native American Festival (powwow) with music, dance, games and other living history vignettes by representatives from clans and nations of the Southeastern Woodlands.

The popular Gift Shop will be reopened and will be open during all museum hours. It will offer items such as affordable artifact replicas for kids (such as arrows), maps, photographic prints, stationery, hand made jewelry, and crafts of good quality that are related to the purpose of these history museums.



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Sprucing up HQ: An office and a new classroom for the Museums

With City of Bogalusa permission, the Friends of the Museums have cleaned, repainted and generally fixed up the old Deli Building near the playground - with the understanding that the building can be reclaimed as a snack shop if necessary.

In the meantime, the space provides classroom, meeting and office space, and has made the business of running the museums much more effective .

The classroom space accommodates twenty students fairly comfortably. Pottery classes for children, for instance, are easily accommodated on the wide surrounding porch.

Not to be overlooked is the building's value as a meeting place, dining area, and exhibit preparation workroom.

Many thanks for gifts by the Wayne Bourn family that make



Students in the Pineneedle basketweaving workshop enjoy the comfort and convenience of the museum's new classroom space.

Timeline and a Heritage Garden added to the Pioneer Museum

Friends of CPM have, with both volunteer and hired labor, installed much better insulation in the Pioneer log building. It makes a wonderful difference in both temperature and humidity control. New exhibit furnishings have also been acquired through grants and individuals. There are many more simple improvements needed.

A long-awaited timeline has been placed around the inside perimeter of the museum, donated in memory of board member Lena Jacobs, has recently been completed and installed.

This permanent fixture will show the progress of the Bogalusa area from prehistoric times to the present, highlighting major events in our area's existence.

Another exciting addition to the museumscape is a planting area across the front of the building that is being accomplished with City grant funding. The garden is to be called the Heritage Garden because it will be planted with native plants that served both the Native American and early pioneer people.

Jolene Black, board member and plant expert is directing the construction of the garden and it will be a teaching tool furnished with a permanent diagram, posted on the front of the building, of the plantings showing name and uses. Construction of the garden bed is scheduled to start right away.

What comes next?: A dig, a diorama and more dynamic research

Research has taken a leap forward this year with our ongoing attempt to find records of the original temporary sawmill and encampment on the shores of Bogue Lusa Creek. First, the State Archeologist, Dr. Robert Mann, then the Southern Historical Research and Recovery Association searched the area with little luck (but a lot of fun) so far.

Both of the research groups have promised continuing efforts along the creek sites and perhaps other sites around the city. Contingent on this research is the building of a diorama or model of the area along Bogue Lusa Creek.

Robert Seal, a Bogalusa native who has in recent years built these dramatic teaching tools for other museums such as the Port Hudson State Historic Site (battlefield) is leading the research. Assisting is our intern, Owen Hyman, a top-notch researcher. Many others are providing important help, including Bob Lawrence, Dempsey Allen, Irma Callendar, Berneda Birdsong, and Adrian Case, and still more volunteers are very generously lending their time and talents.



Archaeological dig was short-lived but has led to other dig possibilities



Workers sift through screens to find the smallest evidence of the original mill builders' encampment

An excellent example of the value of a teaching diorama is one in the Maritime Museum in Madisonville. Guides at that museum will gather students around their large diorama (as they did for MCP field trips for 150 public school students last summer) to illustrate the life of a village and woods in the Ponchartrain area, and to discuss life as it was there in earlier times.

Our diorama would include Bogue Lusa Creek from the first encampment area on into and including a bit of the Pearl River. The scene would include tents, the Magnolia Hotel, the camp sawmill, the permanent sawmill under construction, the men, the animals, the wagons, machines, supplies, creek and river traffic; then – compressing both time and space no more than two years and one mile - it could include some of the first business buildings and residences of the area immediately surrounding the mill.

A diorama of this type will be securely covered and locked and will last many years, and in future spaces, with little upkeep. The Museum has prepared several grant applications to cover the cost of this valuable resource.

Also on the research from, the Museum took an important step in having the over 4,000 Stone Age points (arrowheads) categorized according to condition, age, and owner, then arranged for study and display in archival boxes. MCP employed Mike LeBlanc - recommended by the State office of Archaeology - to do this important job.

Current Exhibits



“They Didn’t Like to Talk About It”:

Bogalusans in World War II

A survey of the Homefront and the Battlefield that includes the Depression era leading into the War. Displays include posters, military issue uniforms and armaments, as well as Depression and War Era items from popular culture.

Toys on the Hood: A Collection of Historic Auto Ornaments

A collection of elegant hood ornaments from thirteen cars of the 40’s and 50s

A Hot Time in the Old Town

An exhibit vignette of old slot machines and bootleg paraphernalia, including a genuine whiskey still - a continuing Bogalusa Tradition with Prohibition Era highlights.

Continuing Exhibits: Early Pioneer, Civil War, Early Sawmill City, and the Paper Mill

and an extended exhibit of a Victorian Child’s Room to be replaced in July by a Museum favorite – the Pre-Electric Kitchen.



Recent Exhibits

Black History Month and the Civil Rights Campaign

Included Ku Klux Klan robe, documentary photographs of the struggle in Bogalusa, and an 8”thick FBI file of the Bogalusa campaign rosters.

This exhibit was curated by museum intern, Ceolia Dunn, as her graduate exhibition for a Museum Science Degree from Southern University. Since graduation she continues to be very active in the work of the museums.

The Museums other graduate intern, Owen Hyman, will return to Southeastern Louisiana Univ. to finish a Master of Public History degree. He has arranged to make part of his degree program research for the Museums of Cassidy Park. He is currently engaged in research for the ongoing archaeological dig.

Telling it like it Was: Volunteer Museum Guides

The absolute essential for both the museums is well trained docents able, with good training, to answer questions by visitors and conduct tours if requested.

The Cassidy Park Museums rely on Board Members and Friends to give part of their weekends occasionally to do this much appreciated service. Training sessions are conducted by current volunteers and the docents are given a packet of information relevant to current exhibits.

The museums are preparing MPC media players to record information about artifacts in the order they are seen on a museum tour. It is hoped that soon we can offer the use of these players to the visitors to listen to as they walk about the museum.

Want to get in on the action? With the opening of the Indian Museum many more guides will be needed. It's an exciting opportunity and a great way to be of service to your cultural community.

Junior Museum Guides

The Museums of Cassidy Park feel strongly that younger members be involved in telling the stories of our community and offer the opportunity to be Junior Museum Guides during special occasions such as Christmas and other times when large numbers of people would be visiting. We make these positions open to students aged 12 to 16.

Museum Board

Executive Board:

President: Johni Miles-Blount
 Vice President: Sue Carhart
 Secretary: Judy Pritchard
 Treasurer: Beverly Smith

Board of Directors:

Janice Billings
 Jolene Black
 Dixie Gallaspy
 Lorraine Bourn
 Marcelle Hanemann
 Wayne Bourn
 Susan Merrick
 Irma Callender
 Col. Robert Miller
 Marilyn Bailey-Crews
 Sally Rosenblum
 Carol Duke

Ex-Officio

Members:
 Sen. Ben Nevers
 Samantha Verret
 Sandy Bloom

Director:

Millicent Canter

Board Members were elected at the Annual Meeting on May 20th.

The Second Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Cassidy Park Museums was held in the home of its president, Johni Miles-Blount.

The Board of Directors for 2009-10 were elected and the activities of the past museum year and future plans were discussed.

A party followed the meeting with wonderful food by .

Summer Camp Schedule - Starts June 16th

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE

AGES 7, 8 & 9 - WEEK ONE: Tue., Wed., and Thu., June 16,17,18, from 9am -1:30

AGES 10,11 & 12 - WEEK TWO: Tue., Wed., and Thu., June 23, 24, 25 9:00am -1:30

Children are expected to attend all three days and bring lunch each day

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE TO MUSEUM MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP FEES: INDIVIDUAL - \$25; FAMILY - \$35

CAMP FEE FOR NON-MEMBERS IS \$10 AND INCLUDES ALL THREE DAYS CAMP THEME - THE WOODLANDS

Tuesday - Learning about the trees that were very useful to Indians and Early Pioneers to make their weapons , food and shelter. Tree Planting of these trees led by a certified Louisiana State Forester. Crafts, Games. Bring lunch.

Wednesday - Field trip by A/C small bus to Miles Sawmill and driving tour of the Paper Mill. Begin construction of Wigwam or Log Cabin (to take home at end of week). Bring lunch.

Thursday - Craft construction continued with added fishing fly-making , jewelry-making and games. Bring lunch.

Adult Classes

SCRAPBOOKING WITH HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The American Museums Association has alerted all history museums that the current interest in Scrapbooking will in the future provide a valuable resource to Museums and has urged them to provide instruction to scrapbook enthusiasts on including historical context to the pages of family, friend, and travel photographs. In response to this appeal, The Museums of Cassidy Park are pleased to offer the following courses.

SCRAPBOOKING FOR HISTORY

Saturday, June 27, 10:00am with Tina Penton of Scrapbook Heaven & Museum staff
Make your scrapbook a real keeper. Learn where and how to get materials that put historical context into your book. This class is in response to a request by the American Association of Museums.

MORE SCRAPBOOKING FOR CAMP PARENTS

Concurrent with Children's Summer Camp - Wednesdays only, June 17 & 24
Parents and Guardians bringing their children to the Cassidy Park Museums Summer Camp are invited to attend a Scrap booking class especially for them while the kids are busy with other activities. Class begins at the same time as Camp and lasts 1 1/2 hours. No fee. Class limited to 15.

“Local museums like this give people the opportunity to immerse themselves in the past”

Next Civil War reenactment planned

In 2008, the Museums of Cassidy Park sponsored a very well attended event - a Civil War battlefield reenactment by Spaight’s Battalion reenactment group of Slidell. The group produced the “performance and participates in reenactments throughout the year and throughout the state. This year, the two-day event was hosted by the Bogalusa Chamber of Commerce.

Donis and Pricilla Davis of Slidell are the group’s organizers and they have predicted that the Bogalusa event will grow very large very fast because the setting, the fine cooperation by the City and Bogalusa’s location are all factors that promise to attract many visitors from outside the immediate area.



News of the initial success spread, and for the second event participation by re-enactors from all over the area doubled that of the first.

These events are wonderful opportunities to truly bring our history to life.

Stone Age Weaponry Workshop: Back by popular demand

October 3, 1:00 p.m. at the Indian Culture Museum.

Our very popular workshop in Stone Age Weaponry will be offered for the second time by Andrew Barron, archeologist, who will demonstrate flintknapping (the making of arrowheads) and other techniques as well as offering information on artifacts brought in by participants.

The event offers points of interest for both adults and children, so there is something for the whole family. Spend a day in distant past and make plans to attend!



Museum Special Openings for groups

Throughout the year special dates are arranged for groups who want to make learning about local Indian and Pioneer history part of their programs. Since the year began we have conducted tours, taught papermaking to Boy Scouts from Pearl River, read stories and made clay pots with over 50 pre-schoolers, taken a trunk show to Ben's Ford School, and at the Park toured and talked about finding Indian artifacts to 160 third and fourth graders from Franklinton Elementary, and done tours and crafts with --- ---students from Enon Elementary School.



Museum staff area always happy to do an on-location trunk show for schools and other organizations. And a specially arranged visit to the Museums of Cassidy Park is always possible, making a visit to the Park entertaining as well as educational.

Birthday parties with museum-related games and crafts, party décor and food can also be arranged. Information for any special opening is available by e-mail info@cassidyparkmuseums.com

The Wheels on the Bus: Museum tour of historic homes

On a cold, dreary day in early February, the Museums took a group of history buffs on a tour of area historical sites. The small bus was furnished free of charge by the -----
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The 200 yr. old Ford House, usually open only on Sunday afternoons arranged a private tour for the members. The house is probably this area's most important early pioneer site. Rev. John Ford, an Englishman searching, along with his thirty slaves, for the right place to settle. He chose the banks of the Pearl River just above Angie.

The group's second stop was Poole's Bluff, an early ferry crossing into Mississippi and site of a store. Members enjoyed getting to know each other better over lunch at the new restaurant there, One Last Thing.

After looking over the beautiful river-navigation canal junction, as well as a recently installed monument honoring men who gave their lives in recent wars, the group drove on the Bush where they had a private tour of The Old Iron Museum by the owner and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Rawlin Williams.

The museum no longer has regular opening days, a pity, since this is an astonishing collection of not just iron objects (like antique tractors), but significant household, farm and early country life.

THE MUSEUMS OF CASSIDY PARK

Bogalusa Pioneer Museum
Cassidy Park
P.O. BOX 1373
Bogalusa LA
70429

Phone: 985 732 9752

E-mail:
info@cassidymuseums.org

Get Involved!
Join Friends of the Museums!



THE MUSEUMS OF
CASSIDY PARK

History in the Heart of Bogalusa

Artifact donations and loans

Friends of the Museums is dependent on the generosity and civic pride of area citizens who want to share their enthusiasm for saving the history of our pioneers. We won't understand who we are until we understand where we're from. Those listed below have been very generous to museum visitors this year. We thank them.

- Wayne & Lorraine Bourn - Victorian Furniture and accessories (loan); Late 1800's Pie Safe (gift); Registration table (gift), Carpentry tools. (loan)
- Jack & Gael Carrel - Smithfield Rifle, Cannon balls and other Weaponry, Civil War Books and Misc. artifacts (loan)
- Carol Duke - Stone Axe-head (est. 1,000-8,000 yrs, old) (gift)
- Merlin & Eleanor Duke - Replica Indian artifacts (gift)
- Esma's Antiques - Small household and Personal Items (loan)
- Bogalusa Mardi Gras Krewes - Costumes and Souvenirs (loan)
- Perry Thomas - Military Saddle (loan)
- Earl Moak, Marilyn Bailey Crews, Willard Harrell - Historic Photographs (loan)
- Varnado Store Museum - Collection of photos "Life Along the Tracks..." (loan)
- Col. Robert Miller - drawing by Irma Moody (loan)
- Temple Inland - Papermaking instruments (loan)
- Vaiden Barlow - Cornsheller (Loan)
- Betsy and Tom Knight—Victorian child's cribs, tables, cases



Population Control: Museum attendance

Have you visited the museum lately? If you have, you probably noticed the increased number of people enjoying the exhibits.

Last year, 2008, we had a total of 2,745 guest sign in: 1,452 were from Bogalusa, 763 were from other Louisiana locations, 318 from Mississippi, 86 from other states, 10 from other countries, and 116 did not give a town. In the first four months of this year, we have had 590 visitors (313 were from Bogalusa) and they are still coming!

Let's do our best to make sure that this is one population trend that keeps going up!