



THE MUSEUMS OF
CASSIDY PARK

THE ARTIFACT

Newsletter of the Cassidy Park Historical Museums

Volume 2, Issue 1

Summer 2012

Major Changes All Around . . .

by Millicent Canter

The Pioneer Museum is not what it used to be. Great improvements on the old log building and the addition of a new classroom portend great progress in many ways.

The old log construction has been bolstered by new reinforced walls front and back and a new cypress planked classroom and front porch extension.

The classroom will be called “The Papermill” and will be used as a classroom and exhibition space for teaching the science, art and history of papermaking, Bogalusa’s long time major industry. The gift of a pulp refining machine, the Valley Beater, donated by Temple Inland enables us to make great quality paper.

The classroom will also be used for other Heritage Craft School classes such as pottery and pine needle basketry as well as lectures, films and meetings.

The greatly enlarged covered front porch will be put to good use for outdoor classes, music, meetings, and rocking chair therapy.

Mayor Charles Mizell, James Hall, Public Works Superintendent, and the contractors have created a much more practical and safe environment for a museum that will house the City’s history.

Excerpt from letter by Bob Lawrence former Bogalusa News Editor , Park Commissioner, and Director of Public Works

“The park commission had a fund raiser and bought those logs for the museum in my last of 11 years as chairman of the park commission in 1976. When I left, there was no more action by the park commission or the city to put the log building up and the logs were left to rot on the ground for almost five years....When I became director of public works in 1980 I had the city carpenters put it up....I had them (the logs) patched with a special concrete and fiber mix, but knew that would not hold for over 20 years. Actually, it lasted 30 years since it was put up in 1981.”

“I am glad to hear the building has been rescued, renovated and expanded. Cassidy Park is again becoming the center of Bogalusa ...”



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New Acquisitions in the Native American Museum

by Jim Reeves

When Martha Moak made a donation asking us to purchase some art work for display we decided to try to buy a piece of Choctaw pottery. The director of the Moundville Museum in Alabama suggested we contact Ian Thompson, the archaeologist for the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma. He teaches traditional Choctaw methods. He digs the clay from stream banks, forms the vessels, decorates them with designs, and fires them in an open wood burning fire. Ian was commissioned to make a jar type pot for us. He offered to make a bowl he wanted to donate to us. We received both pieces at the end of 2011.



Ask almost anyone to describe a Native American dwelling and most likely you will hear the description of a tepee as seen in the “Cowboy & Indian” movies. The tepee was perfect in the Plains area where the buffalo were hunted. Buffalo hides made great covering. The tepee construction made it easy to disassemble and move as the buffalo herd migrated to new grazing sites. In the southeast where Native Americans grew crops, fished, and hunted deer and small animals a more permanent dwelling suited them. The houses were constructed of the material that was easily available.

We asked Tom Varnado, *Strong Buffalo*, to make models of the various dwellings used by Native Americans. Each model is true to historic descriptions and labeled with the tribe identified, materials used, and geographical area where such dwellings were predominant. These models are now on display.

Weekend Cabin Raffle

The Museums are sponsoring a Raffle for a two night weekend cabin in Fontainebleau Park. The new cabins with two bedrooms, kitchen and porches over the water are valued at about \$250. Winner can arrange date with the La. State Parks Dept.

Tickets are \$1 for one or \$5 for six, and can be bought at the museums at regular opening times of 1-4 each Sat, and Sun. or from Museum staff and Board Members, or call for more information at 985.735.9188. Brochures with photos and more information including floor plans are available at the Museums and on La. State Park web site.

Car Boot Sale

The “Car Boot Sale”, despite the necessity to re-schedule because of threatened storms on May 12th, welcomed 30 vendors to Cassidy Park on Saturday, May 26th. The “Pickers Competition” proved to be great fun as Esma Erwin volunteered to informally appraise (although she is a qualified appraiser) each item selected from the whole stock of all vendors. Rita Clayton was the winning picker having chosen an antique clock, an old accordion, and an early 1900’s wicker bassinet. She earned the title of Best Picker for choosing the three items that together added up to the highest value.



She was awarded (in honor of the British theme of the event) a certificate from the “Queen”, stained glass candle holders, a copy of Amy Quick’s History of Bogalusa, and a number of chances to win the Raffle for a weekend cottage on Lake Ponchartrain in Fontainebleau Park.

Esma also held a continuing chat with visitors on the enlarged and covered porch of the renovated Pioneer Museum. Vendors as well as shoppers were anxious to have her opinion and advice about articles they had brought to sell or brought just for historical information.

While the temperature was in the mid-90’s, vendors, shoppers and the event musicians, “Slim and Jim Plus,” found deep shade under the Park oaks and magnolias.

Staff Changes

Millicent Canter, Director of the Museums since their reopening in 2006 will be leaving the job of Director and taking on the responsibility of Curator of the Pioneer Museum with its’ new “Papermill” classroom. Russ Williams will continue as special curator for 18th and 19th century parish history and Terry Quinn, with responsibility for railroad history and as facilitator of the Museums’ music events.

Continuing as Curator of the Indian Museum will be Jim Reeves who will have a new assistant, Lynda Willems, plantsman and curator of the Native Gardens. See more about the Garden elsewhere in this issue.

Judith Raborn is now Registrar of Collections, keeping records of all gifts and loans of historical artifacts for current and future exhibits.

Lorraine Bourn will be Interim Director and oversee the educational program.

All Staff positions are volunteer jobs.

Finance Report

Jan.—Apr. 2012

Telephone/Internet	\$497.08
Off. Sup./Printing	\$614.65
Travel	\$ 5.00
Education/Exhibits	\$723.82
Mailing	\$ 59.25
Renovation	\$606.21
Maintenance	\$ 98.00
Total Expenses	\$2,601.01
Balance	\$3,427.48
Cook-Off Profit	\$6,638.21
Current Balance	\$10,065.69

Membership dues are now calculated on a 12 month basis. No matter when you join, you will have 12 full months of membership.

Remember When



By Millicent Canter

In time for Christmas in the Park, the Pioneer Museum installed an exhibit devoted to telling the rich story of Sports in Bogalusa.

The installation included our spectacular Explorer Scout Canoeing Teams. Years of awards for top team with awards this year that will take them to national attention were displayed with trophies and beautiful color photographs.

The remarkable support of the Great Southern Sawmill for sports and especially Baseball in the early 1900's was noted with photographs, books, trophies as well as a story from the

Bogalusa newspaper of the time telling about the National farm teams that came to this city for their training camps. Most visitors had no idea that the famous Babe Ruth had once played here as well as had many other notable national players.

Football momentos and photographs that include the 1931 letter sweater of Earl Moak, Bogalusa's oldest living player at the time of his death in February of this year. The Spartans and the Lumberjacks yielded a very impressive list of the after high school success stories of Bogalusa players on college and professional teams.



The city boasted many adult and student teams for football and baseball—"Y" teams, church teams, and city teams.

The saddle and other equipment of rodeo champion, Robbie Rayburn, was a marvel to the many very young cowboys who came to the museum.

We Remembered: Wrestlers, Dempsey Allen and Preston Hartzog
 The Girl and Boys Basketball
 The Cheerleaders of both high schools and the Band were
 seen on photographs as well as uniforms from those groups



The Remember When session held at the museum drew many of the old players for a good "bragging" session.

The Museums are eager to acquire an excellent archival collection of Bogalusa's unusual sports history and gifts of artifacts toward that goal would be appreciated. Call the Museum at 985-735-9188 for more information about gifts or loans.

Hear the whistle blow...

By Millicent Canter

The 2012 Railroad Day at the Pioneer Museum was a more than standing room only success—many visitors could not even get in the door!

Terry Quinn, curator of railroads for the Pioneer Museum and organizer of the event, is already working hard on putting together a proposal for National Railroad Convention in Oct. 2014.

Quinn states that, “The date would coincide with the Bogalusa Centennial and the Washington Parish Fair.” The organization has had over 1000 paid members from Bogalusa to Australia. Most members are from locations along the former GM&O Railroad. Although the membership has decreased some, it is still an organization worth courting.

The Society celebrates its 40th anniversary this Oct. in St. Louis. The conventions are always held in a location formerly served by the GM&O RR. Large groups come from Illinois, Mississippi, and Alabama as well as Louisiana.

Museum Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President - Carol Duke
Vice President - Jim Reeves
Secretary - Jennifer McDow
Treasurer - Patricia Branch

MANAGING BOARD:

Irma Lee Callendar
Mary Crumedy
Fran Harry
Roosevelt Ludd
Rev. R.L. Palmer
Judy Pritchard
Cidette Rayburn
Sally Rosenblum
Margaret Ryals
Dera Talley

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Senator Ben Nevers
Sandy Bloom- Representing
City of Bogalusa

Those currently nominated for Board Membership are: Robin Day, Teddy Drummond, Lennice Gambino, Johni Miles-Blount, Michael O’Ree, Ellis Sampson, and Kathy Stuart.

If you would like to serve on the Friends of Cassidy Park Museum Board, call the Museum at 735-9188.

Election of the Executive Board will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Note: We are hoping to hold the Annual Meeting when we have the Opening of the Renovated Pioneer Museum. The date will be published as soon as we can firm up a completion date for the work still in progress.



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.

Great Cook-Off/BBQ. . . .

by Jennifer McDow

Thanks to everyone for the participation in our 2012 Cook-Off/BBQ! The fundraiser netted \$6,638.21 to add to the Museum coffers. Our many gracious volunteers: Eddie Benard, Desoto's Seafood, Beth Willett, Emily Canter, Malinda White, Teddy Drummond, Terry "Foots" Quinn, Lauren Page, Glynn's Drive Inn, Ann Tate, Kellie Hebert, Lexie Gutczynski, Natalie Gulczynski, Riley Dupont, Jennifer Wallace, Daryl Burr, Ethel Burr, as well as the Museum volunteers/board members made it all possible.



The weather was beautiful and allowed many families to enjoy a day of sampling the cuisine of the day, listening to music by Paper Town, story time and crafts by the Friends of the Library, feeding the ducks, and jumping in the bounce houses.

Thanks, too, to the Cooking Teams: Old Jacks, 4 Jefas, Wing Bones, Allen's Alley, Bogalusa Police Dept., Grillin' on the Dirt Road, Team Mizell, Forbes Finest Sauce, Swamp Things, Carney's, Washington Parish Fire District #7, and Country Cookers.

Congratulations to the winners: Seafood – 1st –Allen's Alley Catfish Cakes; 2nd -Wing Bones Shrimp and Grits; 3rd –Forbes Finest BBQ Shrimp Fowl - 1st Place—Allen's Alley Turkey and Wild Pork Balls, 2nd—Wing Bones BBQ Chicken, 3rd—Grilling on the Dirt Road Chicken Creole; Beef—1st—Wing Bones Brisket, 2nd—Forbes Finest Roast Beef, 3rd—Old Jacks Beef and Macaroni; Pork—1st—Wing Bones Pork Tenderloin, 2nd—Carnegie AC Pulled Pork, 3rd—Grilling on the Dirt Road Pork Ribs; Wild Game—1st—Wing Bones Wild Game Jambalaya, 2nd—Allen's Alley Wild Pork Egg Rolls, 3rd—Washington Parish Fire District #7 Chicken and Deer Sausage Gumbo

Of course, it was the Sponsors who financed the event. Thank you! Thank you!

Ruby: Chamico, Inc., Resthaven Living Center, LLC, Sheridan Construction Co., Inc.,

Sapphire: Capital One Bank, Cheatham & Tate LLC, Culpepper's Bogalusa Lumber, Just Swim, Moseley's Franklinton Jewelers, Talley, Anthony, Hughes & Knight, LLC

Onyx: Animal Clinic of Bogalusa, LLC, Arata Law Office, Bill McGehee Insurance, Inc., Charles El Mizell, COA, Charles Mehle, Jr. DDS, Citizens Savings Bank, Franklinton Chamber of Commerce, Gayle's Jewelers, Inc., Harold Ritchie Campaign Fund, Judge Robert Black, Magee Finance LLC of Bogalusa, Nielsen's Pharmacy, Ovet Branch Masonry, Romano Insurance & Investment Group, Randy "Country" Seal Sheriff Elect Washington Parish, Resoure Bank, Studio in The Country, Tommy Wascom The Storage Place, Travis's Grocery & Market, Wal-Mart, White's Business Center, Winn Dixie

They have a story to tell

by Lorraine Bourn

On the first Sunday of each month a guest is invited to tell his/her story. The first "My Story" event took place in March with Mrs. Fannie Pierite, a 90 year old Choctaw who told her story of growing up on the reservation and being the first woman of her tribe to get a college degree.



May highlighted Bernie David, *Singing Bear*, telling of his adventure discovering his lineage back to the Mi'kmaq Tribe of Nova Scotia and told of the deportation of the Acadians who had intermarried with the Mi'kmaq. He brought his accordion and delighted us with Cajun music.



In April, Mr. Burnea Martin told us about his ordeal as a World War II Prisoner of War. He brought tears to our eyes with his simple eloquence.

June will present Mary Crumedy telling us about "Growing up Black in Bogalusa." She has many happy memories of her childhood as well as times of difficulty. Mary walked her daughter to school on the first day the schools were integrated.



We love them!!

Docents

by Lorraine Bourn

We couldn't open the museum doors without our very dedicated docents. These ladies and gentlemen come faithfully to welcome visitors and conduct tours. We ask that each docent volunteer one day a month. Some insist on coming weekly! If you would like to join our docent group, call the Museum (735-9188) and volunteer. If we had more docents we could open on more than just weekends.

Here is a list of our heroes: Mary Dugan Brignac, Janie Brown, Marilyn Bailey-Crews, Irma Lee Callender, Debby Craft-Fowler, David Fowler, Roosevelt Ludd, Jennifer McDow, Judith and Donald Raborn, Margaret Ryals, Lurtie Sanders, Willie Mae Sumrall, Dera Talley, Russ Williams, Carol Duke, Judy Pritchard, Cidette Rayburn, Jim Reeves

Impressive!

Attendance

by Lorraine Bourn

Attendance at the museums continues to be impressive. During the first four months of 2012, we have had 1,130 signatures in our Guest Book. Of these, 1,003 were from Louisiana, 57 from Mississippi, 9 from other states, and 61 did not give their home location. Bogalusans accounted for 728 of those from Louisiana. Our figures would be even higher if not for the closing of the Pioneer for renovations. Also, some visitors do not sign the book. Last year we topped the 6,000 mark. Impressive indeed!

Weeds, Corn and a Crow. . . . The museums newest addition

Muse

*By Lynda Willems, "The Rusty Buzzard"
Garden Curator, Designer and Caretaker*

The Native American Museum's newest addition is a garden conceived to pay tribute to the Southeastern Native American presence and to remind us all of their unique land/farm practices. It represents a contemporary version of traditional agricultural practices and serves to educate others about Native Peoples traditions and myths. The garden is made up of various common, and some not so common, plants used by Native Peoples for food, clothing, shelter, medicine, and more. Each plant has an educational identification marker to entice the visitor to the center of the garden for a closer look. Come, enjoy, and be inspired by the world of the Native American.



Lynda Willems, former south Louisiana herb and native plant nurseryman and lecturer, now lives in Waldheim, Louisiana where she resumes her passion for researching and exploring the countryside for plants used by Native Peoples of North America. Lynda has studied native plants with a shaman. She is dedicated to honoring, and perhaps in some small way preserving, the Ancients' botanical contributions, traditions, and myths for future generations to enjoy through her educational gardens and metal artwork.

Cassidy Park Museums
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www.museumsofcassidypark.org

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