



THE MUSEUMS OF
CASSIDY PARK

THE ARTIFACT

Newsletter of the Cassidy Park Historical Museums

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Fall 2008

Battle of the Partisan Rangers! Civil War reenactment is epic success

On the weekend of April 12 & 13, the Pioneer Museum sponsored an exciting Civil War Living History Event when the Slidell Battery of Spaight's Battalion presented a realistic and thrilling look at camp life and the business of battle.

That event reenacted was a skirmish fought between Union forces and a battalion of Louisiana Infantry known as the Partisan Rangers, Southerners who led attacks to fend off property raids by Union soldiers during the War.



Spaight's Battalion reenactors at the Battle of the Partisan Rebels



Spaight's Battalion is group of military enthusiasts and dedicated actors who devoted a great deal of time and money to give our town a real sense of this violent time of change in our history.

Donnis and Priscilla Davis, organizers of the group, traveled to Bogalusa many times to make exact preparations, and then arrived days ahead of the event to be sure that all would go well.

Continued on page 2

Stone Age Technology comes (back) to Bogalusa

An enthusiastic crowd of people came to see weapons expert, Andrew Barron (left), and State archeologist, Robb Mann, demonstrate techniques for making arrowheads, stone axes, and other examples of Stone Age technology. As well shedding light on early weaponry and tools for living, the professionals sought to identify and discuss the many artifacts brought in by collectors - each with stories to tell about their own finds.

Barron sat in front of an audience of over 50 participants, chipping stones, fitting spears and giving all an opportunity



Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

Civil War Reenactment 1-2

Stone Age Tech 1,3

Indian Culture Museum opening 6

Photo Competition 7

Grants and Gifts 5

21st Century School Project 4

Upcoming Cassidy Park Events 7-8

Civil War (cont'd)

On the day of the battle, the action was thrilling and the massive canons gave the entire event plenty of startling sound effects. Horsemen, the Partisan Rangers of this area, arrived just in time to support the troops in an exciting skirmish along the banks of Cassidy Park's Bogue Lusa Creek.

One of the highlights of the occasion was the Slidell Battery's tent "city" with complete camp furnishings and demonstrations of camp life. All re-enactors were dressed in period clothing of authentic design & materials.

Friends of the Museum arranged for a number of other civilian wartime vignettes that gave glimpses into civilian life during the war — surgeon & nurse's stations, carpentry, food foraging, historic cooking, quilting, photography, and even games for children. All participants were generous volunteers, many from other towns.



An unpopular but necessary camp follower

On Saturday night, a generous group of citizens and local business owners prepared a spectacular evening meal for the re-enactors and those assisting with the day's activities.

When the smoke cleared, the tents were taken down, and the last canon rolled away, everyone involved with the event felt it had been a great and memorable success — from the re-enactors to those watching from the edge of the battlefield. Seeing and hearing history in action makes its importance that much more evident.

Plans are already underway to host such an event again.

Kids, clothes, and elbow grease: Try out the Back Porch Laundry

The Farmhouse "Back Porch Laundry" section of the Pioneer is especially planned for children to touch and do. Kids can feel free to try out the old water pump, test the old wash tub and rollers, hang out clothes to dry, take home an old fashioned clothes pin to make a doll, and press a dishcloth with a real cast-iron iron. After that, pushing a button to wash your clothes might not seem like work!

Then, while parents look at photographs and do some reading in peace, children are invited to sit at a table and color, cut, paste, and make simple crafts related to current exhibits - then take them home for souvenirs.



Woodworking skills would have been crucial to any well-run camp.



Some soldiers in the Civil War were as young as 8 years and many boys signed on before they'd even reached their teens.



KIDS NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD!
Show them the way things were in the Old Days with a trip to the Pioneer Museum!

Stone Age Tech *(cont'd)*

to learn some traditional Native-American games played with some of the weapons demonstrated.

Dr. Mann expressed the opinion that there has been more Indian settlement and activity in the Bogalusa area than is reflected in current literature, and he also believes that some of that story may be revealed when he leads an archeological dig in our area this fall.

With the Indian Museum reopening soon, the Cassidy Park Museums hope that those enthusiasts will want to participate in more such workshops and become a vital part of the excitement of constructing and designing displays, collecting materials, helping with artifact identification and other aspects of research involved in curating historical exhibits.



The subject of the Stone Age appealed to participants of both sexes and all ages



For these kids, the term “daily grind” took on a whole new meaning.

The workshop proved to be a tremendous success and is the type of event that the museum hopes to provide more of in the future. For those who took part in this unique opportunity, it was a brief but fascinating glimpse of our area’s long-distant past.

Many thanks to Andrew Barron and Rob Mann for providing such a exciting event. We’re sure that everyone went away with a greater appreciation of matchbooks, central air conditioning, and the Cuisinart.

Workshops planned

The Pioneer Museum plans to sponsor at least two workshops each year (similar to the Stone-Age Weaponry event) as well as an increasing number of related classes for all.

To find out what you can do to participate in the development of the “new” museum please call Millicent Canter at 732-9752 or Johni Blount at 735-5362.

Tax-exempt status approved

Thanks to the hard work of our treasurer, Beverly Smith, we have received our 501(c)(3), non-profit status from the IRS.

This approval makes all previous and future donations, gifts and memberships to Friends of Cassidy Park Museums tax deductible.

This should be a great help in our fund raising efforts.

Docent Training Program

Want to know more about the our area’s history, learn to assess the ages of artifacts, or to identify period furniture styles? Then the Docent Program is for you!

Working with the Museum volunteers you will gain experience by handling and processing items from long ago. It’s an exciting and enriching experience.

Call Carol Duke to sign up Today! 985-730-5123.

History for the 21st Century: 2008 School Program

Louisiana State Department of Education’s 21st Century program for the education enrichment of public school children worked with Friends of the Museums to provided a two-day field trip for each of about 125 students, a process that spanned several weeks.

The 21st Century program provided school buses, lunches, museum fees and teachers to accompany the groups of 16-20 students each, ranging in age from 9 to 18 years. Many teachers from the schools were on hand to assist, as was museum intern, Ceolia Dunn, Friends of the Museum member and a graduate student in Museum Studies who is doing her internship at the Pioneer Museum.



Museum intern Ceolia Dunn and Bogalusa schools friend.

The program’s theme was “Rivers and Streams - Our History” and its purpose was to highlight the importance of Bogalusa’s creeks and rivers, and to learn more about the roles they played in the area’s early settlements.

The first day for each group was a visit to the John Ford House/Fort, the oldest house (208 yrs.) in the area. The house contains many of the original furnishings, including the bed where President Andrew Jackson, slept as he brought his troops through Washington Parish and on to Madisonville, New Orleans and Chalmette. He then fought the last battle against the British in 1814.

From there the students traveled to the Maritime Museum in Madisonville for guided tours and movies about the history,



Students from the 21st Century summer program enjoy some much needed cool shade along the Pearl River.

business, and recreation on the Pearl and on Lake Ponchartrain.

The second day was spent seeing the Pearl River at Pool’s Bluff, the Navigation Canal from Lock 3, in Sun, and having lunch and a Pioneer Museum visit on the banks of Bogue Lusa Creek.

Film record of this project is being produced by Ceolia Dunn. Digital cameras and recording equipment were also provided by the schools - yet another benefit of this extraordinary educational enrichment program.

Museum Board

Executive Board:

- PresidentJohni Miles-Blount
- Vice President.....Sue Carhart
- SecretaryJudy Pritchard
- Treasurer.....Beverly Smith

Board of Directors:

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

Ex-Officio Members:

- Sen. Ben Nevers
- Samantha Verret
- Sandy Bloom

Director:

Millicent Canter

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

“I could stay here ALL DAY!”

- student at the John Ford House



The John Ford House, constructed 208 years ago, is the oldest remaining residence on the Pearl River.

NEH Endowment Granted to Friends of the Museums

The National Endowment for the Humanities granted \$10,000 to a request made by Friends for use in replacing display and storage equipment damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

An extension was granted until July 31st to allow time for building repair, but to prevent loss of the funds, the money had to be used even though the building is not ready. Most items received are being stored at the City Warehouse on Arkansas St. Included in the order were shelving, glass display cases, wall units for use in hanging display equipment difficult for walls such as concrete block and logs.

Ordered locally were materials for stands and free standing display walls to be built by the Woodworking Shop at the Rayburn Correctional Center under the supervision of Major Billie Anderson.

The NEH has been generous with their funds and with guidance by Laura Ward.

The City of Bogalusa in June offered \$10,000 from a La. State grant for additional museum equipment and furnishings such as folding chairs, tables, record keeping equipment and other basic needs that can be used by both the Pioneer and Indian Museums.



Upcoming Events in Cassidy Park

- BANQUET & AUCTION for Ducks Unlimited — Date TBD
- CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK - Thanksgiving day through Christmas Day. Annual holiday event drawing hundreds of people to the museum. This year's museum exhibit theme: "A Sears-Roebuck Victorian Christmas", will also of memorabilia from Bogalusa's famous Studio in the Country
- WILD GAME COOK-OFF — The annual fundraiser of Friends of the W.P. Library. Last weekend in March.
- FESTIVAL IN THE PARK sponsored by Chamber of Commerce. April 11 & 12 Museum will post Photo Contest Winners.
- CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT AND LIVING HISTORY — sponsored last year by the Pioneer Museum, will be sponsored this year by the Chamber of Commerce..
- Bus Trip (open to all) to several local museums such as the John Ford House/Fort near Angie, the Old Iron Museum in Bush, and the Maritime Museum in Madisonville. Other trips farther from home will be planned if interest is demonstrated. Time and fee to be announced.



Rotary Club goes above and beyond the call of duty



The Bogalusa Rotary Club, under the leadership of Merlin Duke, recently presented an appeal to Rotary International at their National Annual Meeting in California. The appeal asks for help with the reconstruction of the Bogalusa Museum of Indian Culture. Brochures (designed by Nina Campbell and printed by the local Rotary) pointing up the need for this assistance were distributed at that meeting.

While the City of Bogalusa has promised to install a new roof, there is other major work to be done inside the museum. Friends of the Museums is fortunate to have several Rotary members represented on its Board of Directors, including Johni Miles-Blount as President.

The Museum organization is very grateful for the Rotary Club interest and special effort to give our community an educational and entertainment resource.

Museum Attendance news!

Is the Museum an important site for Bogalusa? Considering that we have had over 2,524 visitors sign in since our opening through April 20, 2008, I would say an astounding YES!

Also, consider the days we were unable to open the museum due to heating/ac difficulties and the fact that probably 30% of our visitors forget to sign the visitors' book and our regular hours of operation are only about eight hours per week.

This figure represents 41 Louisiana towns, 31 Mississippi towns, 12 other states, and 1 other country.
GREAT JOB, FRIENDS!!!

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

New intern hopes to make history come alive for visitors

The Pioneer Museum's most recently acquired asset is not an historic document, antique machinery, nor a Choctaw artifact. It is the second museum studies intern, Owen Hyman.

Hyman is a St. Tammany Parish native who recently graduated from Southeastern University with a degree in history. He is acquiring some down-to-earth museum experience helping at the Cassidy Park Museums.

His first visit to the Pioneer Museum he says "introduced me to a very rich portion of local history of which I was unaware. I want

to learn more about it for myself and then bring interpretation to a larger audience."

"The potential for museum work as a career is very interesting. I like history," Hyman says, "but not history textbooks. Local museums like this give people an opportunity to immerse themselves in the past rather than glossing over it in a textbook." The enthusiasm for his chosen field is evident in his approach to the work.

Owen will be writing interpretive articles useful for cataloging our collection.

These articles will also be useful in educating museum guides about the collection and the museum's own history.

We want to do everything we can to help and encourage him in his work. He is also a skilled carpenter and has offered to help with exhibit installation.



Grand Opening for Museum of Native American Culture set



Bogalusa's Director of Personnel, Sandy Bloom, liaison to the Friends of Cassidy Park Museums, tells us that Friends can safely plan to re-open the popular Museum of Indian Culture in April of '09 at the time of the Chamber of Commerce Festival in the Park or the Wild Game Cook-Off sponsored by the Friends of the Washington Parish Libraries.

The building's most urgent need is a new roof. Then, with the repair of the electrical system we can begin the long awaited registration and cataloging of the artifacts that must be done before reopening. Mike LeBlanc, recommended by the State Archeologist, Robb Mann, has volunteered to work on classifying all arrowheads, etc. according to date, use, etc. so that they can be displayed in the best interpretive manner. He is ready to start as soon as there is light in the building.

When the Museum closed a number of years ago, some collectors understandably removed artifacts they had there on loan. Friends will appeal to these collectors and others to share, on long or short term loans, objects that would help make the Bogalusa Museum a Must See place for everybody. Visitors to the Pioneer often ask, "When is the Indian Museum going to open?" They recall how fascinated they were to see it as children and express the hope that their children will have the joy of seeing it.

Friends and Collectors should realize that for many of our visitors, the Cassidy Park Museums are the only museums they have ever visited and for some, it will be the only ones they ever visit.

Families with Native American ancestry are urged to share their family's story, perhaps even allowing us to do an audio recording as they respond to our questions in a private, informal session. The involvement of those who have such a background is vital to the success of the museum.

For more information, please call (985) 732-9752 and ask for information about "Native American Stories."

There is room in history for all of us

The Meaning of Membership in Friends of Cassidy Park Museums

People who join Friends of the Museums are part of the creation of a strong organization that can secure the seeable, touchable, objects that, along with written words, will make real to future generations the lives and events that make them who they are.

In recent years that we have worked on re-opening the Museums in Cassidy Park,

we have come to realize how quickly and completely so many aspects of community life and events that have shaped the community are lost and forgotten.

Our aim is to develop a core of Friends whose determined concern will assure that there is a place where public-spirited citizens can feel confident that artifacts they wish to share with posterity are safe and exhibited with effective and accurate interpretation.

Through educational activities offered to all ages and interaction with from our many visitors to the Park, we can reach a very large audience. Experience has shown us that children are our most enthusiastic visitors, and Friends can help make a museum education a valuable part of their lives.

M. Canter
Museums Director



Children learn some essentials of pioneer cooking in one of many fun, educational programs sponsored by Friends of the Museums

Museum computer no longer Stone Age technology!

Thanks to a grant obtained by the City of Bogalusa, we now have a new computer with industry-standard, professional museum management software that will allow staff to keep track of all accessioned artifacts, membership information, fund raising efforts, and all the activities that go into the making of a well-run museum.

We are currently inputting data from our existing collection as we begin to organize the Indian Culture Museum for its upcoming *grand opening*. The new system and software will make administration of the museum far more efficient

Photo Contest: Call for entries!

The Museum is looking for photographs to add to its permanent collection. They may be new or old but should be made in Washington Parish area and reflect the life of the people and/or the natural landscape and wildlife of the area. The photograph may reflect political or social opinion and commentary. Twenty five of the best submissions, based on the judgment of Dr. Sam Hyde, SLU, will be displayed.

A cash prize plus a one-man show if desired, will be given to first place winner. For more information call Millicent Canter at (985) 732-9752.

Upcoming educational events

FALL '08

Archeological "Dig" for pre-historic and 19th century artifacts within the City of Bogalusa, sponsored by Friends of the Museum and the S.E. Regional Archeology Dept, and led by Dr. Robert Mann. A limited number of helpers from Bogalusa students and citizens will be invited - apply now if you are interested.

Pine Needle Basket Weaving

A series of classes to build craft skills from material so appropriate for Bogalusa. An exhibition of pine needle baskets will complement these classes. Date TBD.

Museum Trunk Shows for Schools

We take historic artifacts to schools to complement cur-

rent history studies. Requests from teachers are invited.

SPRING '09

Medicinal Herbs

Use of herbs in Pioneer Era cooking and herb gardening, Development of Herb and Native Plant garden on the grounds of the Pioneer Museum. Teacher Jolene Black, herb historian and excellent cook.



THE MUSEUMS OF CASSIDY PARK

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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 childs' cribs, tables, cases



Coming Soon to the Pioneer Museum...

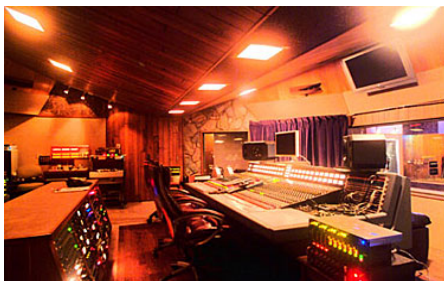
HOLIDAY IN THE PARK: A SEARS & ROEBUCK CHRISTMAS
"A Sears & Roebuck Victorian Christmas" looks at the gift-giving season before iTunes or Amazon.com — an era when wish lists were carefully crafted poring over the pages of the annual volume that doubled as the baby's booster seat.



Come and see clothing, dolls, toys, house wares and other delights of Victoriana that kept our ancestors crossing their fingers in anticipation right up to Christmas morning.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EXHIBIT: STUDIO IN THE COUNTRY

An exhibit of memorabilia from Bogalusa's famous Studio in the Country. The show will feature gold records, album covers, recording equipment, and instruments from the famously secluded location, along with biographical vignettes of stars who recorded their music in the state-of-the-art facility.



Come see inside this local legend and get a better idea of the magic that makes stars like Stevie Wonder, Trent Reznor, and Willie Nelson seek out our piney woods for concentration and inspiration.