

Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 29, No. 1 May 2010

A Century of Service



Springdale firefighters at the intersection of Emma Avenue and Holcomb Street, ca. 1930.
Courtesy Mary Umbaugh and Lucile Lewis

Susan Young

Outreach Coordinator

In 2009 the Springdale Fire Department celebrated 100 years of service to the citizens of Springdale.

The town's first attempts at establishing a fire department began in the late 1880s and were for the most part unsuccessful due to lack of community support. A hook and ladder company formed in 1892 lasted less than a year. For the next few years, volunteers armed with water buckets, blankets, and salt (to smother the flames) battled a series of fires in the downtown business district. Finally, in 1897 the town council purchased six hand-held fire extinguishers to serve as the town's fire protection. In 1904 the council bought an emergency bell. But still there was no fire department.

It wasn't until 1909 that the Springdale Volunteer Fire Department No. 1 was formed with Charles Smyer as chief. The 25-member department quickly set about

raising funds to purchase equipment. Benefit musicals, plays, and moving-picture shows brought in enough money to buy a hand-pulled chemical wagon in 1912. This equipment—basically a large fire extinguisher on wheels—used a mixture of soda and acid instead of water to fight fires. It was effective if the blaze was a small one.

A 1914 fire insurance map of Springdale shows the fire department located in an alley off Holcomb Street, between a blacksmith shop and the town jail. The map notes that the department was made up of 20 volunteers, 24 water buckets, one chemical engine, an eight-foot ladder, a 20-foot ladder, and 150 feet of hose. Springdale's population at the time was about 1,800 people.

The largest fire in the early years of the department occurred in 1915, when a fire in Brodie's photo studio threatened the entire Springdale business district. The

see FIRE, page 3

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Allyn Lord



For the second year in a row, I had the opportunity to be in Washington, D.C., for Museums Advocacy Day, which brought museum folks from across the country together to take

the case for museums to Capitol Hill. Part of the time involved learning about the status of issues important to museums. I'd like to share some facts about museums that may surprise you.

- There are nearly 850 million visits per year to American museums, more than the attendance for all professional sporting events and theme parks combined. (23,783 for Shiloh Museum in 2009.)
- There are an equally impressive number of virtual visits to museums – 542 million visits via the Internet a year. (25,080 downloads of content for Shiloh Museum in 2009.)
- Americans view museums as one of the most important resources for educating our children and as one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information. An Indiana University study reports that

museums are considered a more reliable source of historical information than books, teachers, or even personal accounts by grandparents or relatives.

- Museums preserve and protect more than a billion objects. (There are more than a half-million historic images and more than 100,000 objects in the Shiloh Museum collections.)
- A third of U.S. museums (numbering some 17,500+) are always free to the public. (There is no admission charge at the Shiloh Museum.)
- Museums spend more than \$2.2 billion a year on education and the typical museum devotes three-quarters of its education budget specifically on K-12 students. (About 87% of the Shiloh Museum's education budget is spent on K-12 students.)
- Visitors to historic sites and cultural attractions, including museums, stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other kinds of tourists, according to the U.S. Travel Association.

Check <http://www.speakupformuseums.org/docs/Museum%20Facts.pdf> for these and other facts about museums nationwide.

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STAFF

Allyn Lord, director; Betty Bowling, secretary; LuAnn Clarkson, special projects library assistant; Cheri Coley, library assistant; Marie Demeroukas, photo archivist/research librarian; Amjad Faur, photographer; Pody Gay, education coordinator; Michelle Hearn, education assistant; Curtis Morris, exhibits manager; Marty Powers, maintenance; Carolyn Reno, assistant director/collections manager; Heather Marie Wells, collections assistant/podcast producer; Susan Young, outreach coordinator

VOLUNTEERS

Ethna Billings, Karen Cordell, Beverly Cosby, Susan Dewey, Alison Demorotski, Tom Duggan, Steve Erwin, Martha Estes, Linda Fulton, Regina Gable, Bill Jones, Mary John Jones, Ann Kabanuck, Mitsy Kellam, Jim Langford, Mira Leister, Marilyn Meek, Oda Mulloy, Pam Redfern, Debbie Reed, Don Reynolds, Larry Shivel, Truman Stamps, Vande Southerland, Jeanne Tackett, Ray Toler, Mary Vaughan, Ryan Wells. *Volunteers Emeritus:* Mada Knight, Marie Langford, Bruce Vaughan, Era Walker

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.springdalear.gov/shiloh • shiloh@springdalear.gov

Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. • Free Admission

Fire

From page 1

fire wagon alone was no match for the blaze, so bystanders, including women, formed a bucket brigade. Goods were carried out of stores and piled in the mud of Emma Avenue.

The first motorized truck was purchased in 1917, but not without a fight. The City Council was reluctant to spend city money on a fire truck, even after the firefighters chipped in \$265 they had raised themselves. The Council finally agreed to the purchase after the firemen threatened to resign.

When a city water system was established in 1922, water hydrants were installed around town to help fight fires. That same year a combination hose and chemical truck was purchased. In 1931, a 500-gallon American-LaFrance pumper became part of the fleet. "Ol' Betsy," as the truck came to be called, is still owned by the department today.

Also in 1931 the department's first full-time employees—officially called "station attendants"—were hired. The station was located in a small building on Holcomb Street just south of Emma Avenue.

In the 1950s, departmental meetings were held every two weeks. Red Cross first-aid classes were given. Fire equipment was tested regularly. City hydrants were inspected. Fire drills were conducted in schools and fire inspections in businesses. The volunteers even made time to put up Christmas lights in town for the Chamber of Commerce.

The department held its first pancake breakfast in 1961 to help raise money to purchase a flatbottom boat, motor, and trailer for water-rescue operations. Later that year a telephone alerting system was installed so that all 21 members of the department could be contacted

at home when a fire broke out. Chief Lon Cook noted that the telephone call system was a great improvement, as firefighters could not always hear the fire siren when it was sounded.

The early 1960s, when the city's population grew to over 10,000, saw an economic boom in Springdale. This led city officials to the decision in 1964 to modernize and restructure the fire department around a nucleus of paid professionals.

In 1964 Springdale hired its first paid professional full-time fire chief. He was twenty-three-year-old Mickey Jackson, a graduate of Oklahoma State University's School of Fire Prevention. When Jackson assumed command, the Springdale Fire Department was made up of seven paid firemen and twenty-five volunteers, with all officers being volunteers who were elected annually by the members of the department. A new fire station on Holcomb Street was nearing completion and a new fire truck had been purchased to add to the department's fleet of three trucks and "Ol' Betsy."

One of Jackson's first priorities was to revamp the hiring and promotion system. He required an independent testing board to certify candidates for eligibility, as well as testing for promotions within the department.

The department took over the operation of Springdale's ambulance service in 1967 and Dr. Jim Greenhaw volunteered to teach the basics of ambulance work. In 1971 the Springdale Memorial Hospital began an emergency medical technician (EMT) training program under the direction of registered nurse Virginia Clevenger. Springdale firefighters were among the first in Arkansas to become certified EMTs.

In 1974 Clevenger organized a paramedic training program. The

Springdale Fire Department soon adopted a policy requiring every paid firefighter to be certified as an EMT or a paramedic. The department quickly became a leader in emergency medical care.

Springdale's yellow fire trucks came on the scene in 1972, another idea put into place by Chief Jackson. Up to this time, the department's trucks had been red or white. Jackson chose chrome yellow, which offers the highest visibility both day and night.

The Central Grease and Protein Plant fire in February 1976 has often been called the most spectacular fire in city history. A column of smoke was visible as far away as Siloam Springs, and a photo of the blaze snapped by Springdale police Sgt. Gary Payne made the cover of *Fire Command*, a national firefighting magazine

Chief Jackson left Springdale in 1985 to become chief of the Fayetteville Fire Department. During Jackson's tenure, the Springdale Fire Department grew to include four fire stations, eight trucks (one outfitted with a "snorkel" aerial platform), three paramedic ambulances, forty-five professional firefighters, and eight volunteer firefighters.

Dan White became fire chief in 1986, followed by Rich Davis (1996-1999), David Hinds (1999-2003), and Duane Atha (2003-present).

Today the department numbers 113 uniformed and four civilian personnel. There are six fire stations located throughout the city. The department's fleet includes seven fire engines, one aerial platform ladder truck, one aerial ladder truck, two rescue trucks, and seven ambulances.

Be it fire, medical emergency, or artificial or natural disaster, the Springdale Fire Department stands ready to answer the call. 🚒

DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

November 2009 - March 2010

Bill B. Bailey: Papers and photo postcards from the N. V. Hanks family, Johnson, early 1900s-1940s

Pat Bowman: School souvenir card, Elm Grove School (Washington County), 1908-09; children's books, 1930s; barber tools of A.E. Smith, Washington County, early 1900s

Cheri Coley: Postcards of Northwest Arkansas scenes, late 1900s

Dr. Mary Cotton: Ruth Gilbert corsages; Campbell-Bell fashion booklet, 1940s; Adams Flower Shop box, ca. 1950; photo postcard of Ray's Flowers shop, ca.1965; New Testament, WWII; First National Bank pencils, Fayetteville; A-Q Chicken House menu, Springdale, ca.1950; photos of Don Tyson, Monte Ne, Cain Canning Company Army jeep

Dennis and Pat Davis: *Selected Verse* by Burt Fancher; Immanuel Baptist Church program, Springdale, 1963; The Great Passion Play brochure, 1969; tintype of A.L. Taff by I.H. Gore, Fayetteville, late 1800s

Donna Epley: Photograph of Howe school, Washington County, 1930

Pody Gay: Mourning dress of Tempa Arabia Karnes, West Fork, ca. 1930

Bob L. Herrington: Wood box made by Layton Herrington, Smyrna (Madison County), early 1900s

Ted Insko: Photographs of Lottie Louise Douglas Insko at Springdale Farms, ca. 1960

Barbara Jaquish: Meadow Valley Home Demonstration Club/ Extension Club scrapbooks, Fayetteville, 1943-1984

Dr. Carol Kendrick: Washington County Courthouse blueprints, early 1900s

Mary and Gary King: Scrapbooks and artwork of Joseph "Buddy" Braun, 1960s-1980s; postcards of Johnson, early 1900s

Kathy McClure: Fayetteville High School commencement invitation, 1947; Dr. S. H. Brown's "Baby's Daily Time Cards," Fayetteville, 1950s; *My Baby*, 1951-1952; Eureka Springs postcard, ca. 1960, Campbell-Bell magazines

Sharon McGuire: First State Bank rodeo week pioneer costume, Springdale, ca. 1965

Dorothy Miller: Ledger book and photographs of the Martin family, Farmington, 1900s

Dolores Ceola Moody: 55th Annual Grape Festival Queen's contest and dinner tickets, Tontitown, 1953

Lorene Neal: New Hope Missionary Baptist Church warranty deed, Washington County, 1888

Kaye Ogilvie: Photograph of 2009 ice storm damage, Prairie Grove

Zelmer "Teb" and Norene Teague: Seth Thomas clock from the John Sisemore family, Japton area (Madison County) 1877

Roy Warkentin: Robert W. Mecklin's Bible, 1844

Irma Watson: Photograph of First United Methodist Church choir photograph, Springdale, ca. 1950

Photographs loaned for copying: Barbara Bell, Brenda Pianalto, David Sbanotto, Dolores Ceola Moody, Dolores Peacy, Eugenia Hartman, Helen George, Helene Furst, Jo Anne Lutze, Reeva Clark, Ronnie Bean

"For-use" donations:

Shane Andrews: *An Impossible Cast: Glen Andrews and the Birth of Professional Bass Fishing*

Boston Mountain Chapter, National Railway Historical Society: Dues

Nancy Bumgardner: Quilt

Christine Crouch: *The Good Old Songs*

Tom Duggan: Railroad artifacts

Good Old Days Foods: Dessert for Beans and Cornbread benefit

Nena Hendricks: Kitchen utensils

Mira Leister: Ice cream freezer

James and Marie Lookingbill: *The Razorback*, 1959; Rodeo of the Ozarks programs

Joe Neal: Mockingbird recording

David Oakley: Mockingbird photo

Ozark Film and Video: Public service announcement production

Ozarks Public Television: *OzarksWatch* documentaries

Pam Redfern: *Descendants of John Stephen Loftin/ Lofton*

Jim Rogers: *Descendants of Mary Ball and James Sisemore*

Martha Sutherland: *History of Washington County; History of Benton County; Postmasters and Post Offices; Bench and Bar; Benton County Pioneer, Ozark Highways; Bentonville Architectural Heritage*

Ray Toler: Leather shoe expander

UA Museum: Discovery boxes

Jenny Vego: *The Restoration Movement in Arkansas, 1832-1860*

Ryan Wells: Computer consultation

Volunteer Spotlight

Alison Demorotski



Not many of you know me, so let me start with a little introduction. I have been a volunteer at Shiloh since last August. I came to the museum in particular to gain experience working with the photography collection and contribute my expertise and education to the museum. I have an extensive background in photography between my B.F.A in Studio Art from Texas Christian University and a M.A. in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management (PPCM) from Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario.

When I started my task at Shiloh, I came face to face with the three realities of collections management we were taught in the PPCM program: there will never be enough time, space, or money for all the tasks to tackle at an institution. Once I began my work with Marie Demeroukas in the photo archive, I came to realize the limitations of personnel can also have an effect on the collection. It didn't take us long to come up

with a long list of projects that hadn't hadn't been started, due mostly to the extraordinarily long list of the staff's daily duties. This became the perfect partnership!

During the past nine months, with only one day a week, I have been able to tackle some of the most important projects and make a dent in the archive's wish list. Our first major task was to remove damaged and fragile objects from the library's study collection. The types of prints ranged from tintypes to mounted pasteboard prints with broken corners. These images were photographed and replaced with a copy print, while the original was moved to deep storage and placed in archival boxes.

Organizing prints based on size and type creates a system of uniformity and eliminates the risk of damage from opening a box and not knowing what is inside. Also, acknowledging and treating photographs based on their material qualities determines their housing requirements.

Photographs mounted on pasteboard present archival challenges such as different types of paper materials and adhesive. There is no desire or need to remove them from their mount, but for images on boards that have broken we add a backing board for support and to reduce further damage.

Other challenging objects I have been working with are the collections of images on glass. The collection contains lantern slides and glass-plate negatives. Unlike paper materials, glass supports require vertical storage and so have been separated based on type, put in individual four-flap enclosures, and placed in archival boxes built to suit glass formats. Broken plates have been separated to be backed with a layer of mat board within their enclosure and stacked horizontally, no more than five plates high.

This is only a sampling of the projects that have been completed, but it begins to explain the challenges of the photograph archive. There are hundreds of types of images and exceptions to all archival rules once you begin to work with such large collections. It's no wonder the task continues to grow. Shiloh takes great pride in the quality and amount of information presented in their collection and they do a wonderful job at ensuring the future of the collection for generations to come. I am honored to have played even a tiny part with the fantastic staff and their enduring contribution to our community.

Note: Since writing this article, Alison has accepted a position as curatorial assistant at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Congratulations, Alison! We're proud of you.

WISH LIST

For collections

- mechanic's rolling stool (\$100)
- canister vacuum with attachments (\$250)

For exhibits

- roll-up shade for Searcy House window (\$55)

For education programs

- portable wireless microphone (\$160)

For research library

- old telephone directories from Northwest Arkansas (contact research librarian Marie Demeroukas for details)

Summer Fun at Shiloh!

Registration is underway for our **1800s History Day Camp** for children ages 6-9. Two week-long sessions will be offered June 21-25 and July 19-23, from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. Campers will enjoy games, crafts, and food from the 1800s, with a different theme each day, including Native Americans, pioneers, the Civil War, railroads, and Victorian fun. Cost is \$45 for museum members and \$50 for non-members. Space is limited; preregistration and prepayment is required.

Come **Meet a Firefighter** Saturday, June 12 from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m., when you can visit with former and current members of the Springdale Fire Department, see a modern fire engine, tour the Fire Safety House, and meet “Old Betsy,” the department’s historic 1931 pumper truck. Kids can make an edible fire truck and a paper firefighter’s helmet, and the classic 1916 Charlie Chaplin movie *The Fireman* will be shown throughout the afternoon.

Have you ever wanted to be someone else? If you like history, pretending to be someone else, and dressing up in clothes from days gone by, you won’t want to miss our **Living**

History Workshop, July 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Living history professionals Doug Kidd, Billy Nations, and others will teach you how to do research, develop characters and presentations, and work with the public. Cost is \$15, which includes lunch. Workshop attendees will be eligible for apprentice level certification by the Arkansas Living History Association. To receive the certification you must be a current member of ALHA; annual dues are \$12 per person. The workshop registration deadline is July 30. Call the museum at 750-8165 to join ALHA and to sign up for the workshop.

Lori Spencer, author of *Arkansas Butterflies and Moths*, will draw you in like a moth to a flame as she talks about **The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Moths in the Ozarks**, Saturday, August 7, at 2:00 p.m. Kids’ craft activity included!



Miranda (aka museum volunteer Debbie Reed) teaches kids how to pick Kentucky Wonder beans in the museum’s heritage vegetable garden during our 2009 history day camp.



Congratulations Har-Ber High School EAST Lab!

Springdale Har-Ber High School Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Lab students recently partnered with the Shiloh Museum to create the “Shiloh Loft,” a teen website for the museum (www.shilohmuseumloft.org). In recognition of their project with the Shiloh Museum and other community organizations, the Har-Ber EAST Lab has received the 2010 Founders Award, recognizing it as the nation’s top EAST program. The “Shiloh Loft” also garnered an Honorable Mention in the “Best Museum Website” category at the Arkansas Museums Association’s annual awards program this spring. Here, Shiloh Museum education coordinator Pody Gay (left), Har-Ber students JennyKate Webb and Chase Stepp, and EAST Lab instructor Debbie Lamb are all smiles as they pose with the awards.

CALENDAR

Through Jan. 22, 2011. *All Dressed Up*, an exhibit of men's, women's, and children's finery.

Through September 18. *Answering the Call*, an exhibit on the history of the Springdale Fire Department.

Through August 21. "Carl Smith's Fayetteville," a personal look at a town and a family as seen through one man's camera lens.

May 16, 2:00 p.m. "Behind the Scenes of *Winter's Bone*," a program about the Sundance Film Festival award-winning movie filmed in the Ozarks and starring Fayetteville native Lauren Sweetser. Sweetser and director Debra Granik will discuss the making of the movie, and several musicians from the movie will perform.

May 19, noon. "Gone to the Grave: Funeral Customs of the Ozarks, 1850-1950," a program by independent researcher Abby Burnett.

June 12, 12:30-3:00 p.m. "Meet a Firefighter" Shiloh Summer Saturday program. See page 6 for details.

June 16, noon. A program on the history of local public access television by journalist Richard Drake.

July 21, noon. "What Brought You Here?," readings by members of the LifeWriters group.

July 31, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Living History Workshop. See page 6 for details.

August 7, 2:00 p.m. "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Moths in the Ozarks," a Summer Saturday program by Lori Spencer, author of *Arkansas Butterflies and Moths*. Kids' craft activity included!

August 8, 2:00 p.m. Genealogy Jeopardy, a game show featuring local history and genealogy facts and trivia, presented by members of the Washington County Arkansas Genealogical Society.

Aug. 18, noon. A program on the diaries of Madison County farmer Milton Cooper, by museum outreach coordinator Susan Young.

Aug. 24-Dec. 18. *Down by the Old Mill Stream*, a photo exhibit featuring Northwest Arkansas grist mills.

Sept. 11. 33rd Ozark Quilt Fair, with antique and new quilts for show and sale.

Keep up with the latest happenings at the museum by subscribing to our monthly eNews. Just send an email to shiloh@springdalear.gov with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

You can also follow us on Twitter, <http://twitter.com/ShilohMuseum>.

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.

Help us save money and trees

- Check here if you would like to receive your newsletter by email instead of U. S. mail.

Email address _____

Membership Levels

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron - \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School class - \$12.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining - \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual (65+) - \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple - \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Founding - \$1,000 |

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Please make check payable to: Shiloh Museum
118 W. Johnson Avenue
Springdale, AR 72764
479-750-8165



For the last few months, museum library assistant Cheri Coley has been cataloging the massive Robert Winn Photograph Collection--over 900 images so far, with many more to go!

This photo is one of Cheri's favorites. Labeled "Lyndell Deatherage, July 14, 1912," the image shows a young man perched on a rock overlooking the busy town of Winslow, Arkansas. The building in the center of the photo is E. A. Budd's Post Company and Department Store. As Robert Winn wrote in his book *Winslow: Top of the Ozarks*, "[Budd] had a large office with a staff of a dozen young ladies mailing out advertising for fence posts. He shipped out uncounted numbers of fence posts to western states. He also carried a complete line of clothing, shoes, feed, hardware, furniture, and groceries. Mr. Budd had branch stores at Brentwood, Woolsey, West Fork, Porter (Schaberg) Chester, Walker's Switch, Mountainburg, and Rudy."



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