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## Collections & Connections

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## **Warren County Marches to War!**

A play and documentary that dramatize the impact of World War II on Warren County will premier in Bowling Green in April. Official projects of the Bowling Green/Warren County Bicentennial Commission, the play and documentary are the result of the collaboration between Very Special Arts Kentucky, the Kentucky Library and Museum, and Public Theater of Kentucky. Project participants Ginny Miller, Laura Harper Lee, and Mike Thomas chose World War II as the topic because of public interest in the period and the potential for underwriting.

Mary Surface Hall, a nationally recognized playwright with ties to Warren County, is incorporating incidents and events from oral interviews into the story line of the four character drama. Bowling Green resident Mark Funk is selecting period music such as "I'll Be Seeing You" to underscore the play's wartime setting.

Very Special Arts, an umbrella organization for programs in the fifty states and 85 other countries, provided the initial funding when it awarded a \$5,000 Legacy Project grant to Very Special Arts Kentucky. Kentucky was one of only five state programs whose proposals were funded. Another \$5,000 from the Kentucky Oral History Commission underwrote the cost of conducting and transcribing interviews with 21 people, many, but not all, residents of Bowling Green Retirement Village. Interview subjects included wartime servicemen and civilians. Thirty-three World War II-related interviews, previously collected and housed in Manuscripts, are also being transcribed.

Another project partner, WKYU-TV, will videotape the performance. Bowling Green Retirement Village will receive a videotape, and area schools may request copies as well.

Television producer and Warren County native, Amy Thompson, became an adjunct project partner when she wrote a \$1,000 mini-grant to the Kentucky Humanities Council. Thompson is conducting additional interviews for a documentary film on Warren County during World War II.

Several exciting events are planned in conjunction with the completion of the project. On April 24, Ms. Thompson's documentary of *Over Here/Over There* will show in gallery K & L of the Kentucky Building, and the play will premier the next day at the Phoenix Theater in downtown Bowling Green. For information about the documentary call Earlene Chelf or Laura Harper Lee at (502) 745-2592. For information about the play call the Phoenix Theater at (502) 781-6233.

*~ Sandy Staebell*

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## Recent Gifts to the Kentucky Library and Manuscripts

The Kentucky Library and the Manuscripts and Archives, located in the Kentucky Building, have been the recipients of two unusual gifts from friends of the university. The Oscar Payne Cleaver estate has donated a small collection of his personal papers, and Dr. Howard Doll has given a valuable Kentuckiana collection gathered by his late wife, Anne Parker Doll.

Oscar Cleaver, a native of Hart County, graduated from Horse Cave High School and then matriculated at Georgia Tech in 1924. He earned his Masters degree in Electrical engineering with a minor in drama from Yale University in 1930. After graduation he worked for Westinghouse as a lighting engineer. In 1942 he entered the Army Corps of Engineers and later continued as a reserve officer. He retired a full Colonel in 1964. In his 25 years as a lighting expert at the Engineer Research and Development Laboratories at Fort Belvoir, he made significant contributions toward the development of night vision. Many of his military projects are documented in photographs included in the collection.

Besides his military career, Cleaver is also known as the inventor of an automatic lighting system for the theater, the modern version of which is used by the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He was co-author of *Stage Lighting*, which became a standard work for theatrical lighting. As an engineer for Westinghouse, he helped develop the lighting system used for spectacular light and fountain display that was a major attraction at the 1939 World's Fair. That same year he was sent to Hollywood to assist in solving lighting problems involved with the filming of the motion picture *Gone With the Wind*.

His collection contains a five-page reminiscence of his work on the famous movie. He remembered that there was "much discussion about using 'damn' because of the censor", but David Selznick wanted it. Cleaver called Selznick a "perfectionist" who wanted everything "automatic"-- "colors, costumes, accents, scenery." Cleaver also makes several insightful remarks about the movies personalities. He became friends with Vivian Leigh, who he describes as "tops in every way, truly professional...Always knew [her] lines and required little direction or repeat takes." He remembered Clark Gable as "unfriendly, rarely letter perfect in scenes" and "preoccupied" due to an impending divorce. Cleaver enjoyed an outstanding professional career that is documented in this small manuscript collection.

Dr. Howard Doll, a professor of communications at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has donated a significant Kentuckiana collection which includes several important Civil war newspapers. The prize of the newspapers in an August 30, 1862 issue of *The Vidette*, published by John Hunt Morgan's Brigade in Glasgow on one of their raids into Southcentral Kentucky. Several other issues were printed at various sites in Kentucky and Tennessee. With tongue in cheek, the publisher's statement indicates that the paper was issued "semi-occasionally." This issue may be one of only two currently in historical collections. The Doll collection also includes two full issues and two partial issues of the *Louisville Daily Courier* published in late 1861 and early 1862. They are of particular interest to the Kentucky Building, because Bowling Green is

listed as the place of publication and they were printed during the Confederate occupation of the city.

Gifts such as the Cleaver and Doll collections help the Kentucky Building faculty and staff interpret various aspects of the commonwealth's heritage for exhibits, publications, and programming. They are also available to Western students and faculty and visiting scholars who wish to know more about Kentucky's past.

*~ Jonathan Jeffrey*

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## **Editor's Notes**

The spring semester has heralded many exciting events for the WKU Libraries and Museum. Certainly the main event was the Bowling Green Warren County Bicentennial Celebration kick-off which occurred March first. Many library and museum faculty and staff played a crucial role in the planning. Laura Harper Lee, Education Curator at the Kentucky Museum, is co-chair of the Bicentennial Commission. Earlene Chelf, Coordinator of Marketing and Special Events and Co-editor of this newsletter, is secretary to the Commission and helped to coordinate publicity for many of the events. Cindy Etkin, the Government Information and Law Collections Coordinator, created and is maintaining the official Bowling Green Warren County Bicentennial Web Site.

The Bicentennial Celebration kick-off was a good compliment for the Kentucky Museum's most recent exhibit, "First American Roads, Rails and Rivers: Warren County Then and Now." While the Bicentennial Commission provided an elegant repast to feed the masses during the premiere, Bowling Green Mayor Eldon Renaud and Warren Countians opened the exhibit which documents the Warren County's history and heritage. Many others were on hand for the gala opening celebration, and whether watching or participating, enjoyed some fine musical performances by Gospel Truth, the Richardsville Elementary School 5th and 6th grades, the Kentucky Bluegrass Band, Doc Livingston and Friends, and Warren Central's Brass Ensemble.

The celebration underscores the connection the University Libraries and Museum have always had with the community as repositories of knowledge and links to our past. We hope you will take the time to visit our fine collections at both the Kentucky Museum and the University Libraries and renew your connection with us!

*~ Beth Knight, Co-Editor*

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## **National Library Week: Thirty-Nine and Counting**

The first celebration of National Library Week was in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up & Read." April 13-19, 1997, marks the 39th year for this observance which is sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country. Many thousands of libraries -- school, public, academic, corporate, and special -- participate with special events and contests.

University Libraries' celebration includes the 10th annual Western Authors' Reception on April 15, 1997, from 2:30-4:00 in the Kentucky Building, Galleries K & L. This event features a display of scholarly publications by Western faculty and staff. In addition, the Dean of Libraries and the Museum, Michael Binder, presents the annual Faculty Library Award to a WKU faculty member who consistently contributes to the development and use of library and museum resources.

This year's theme for National Library Week is "Kids Connect @ the Library." Kids of all ages can and do find library connections with people, books, journals, and computers. As an academic library what greater challenge and responsibility is ours than to create an environment and provides resources for lifelong learning.

So, join us at any time to celebrate and navigate the information maze. Call. Visit. Log-on today!

*~ Connie Foster*

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## **In Grateful Appreciation**

At the close of 1996, the Department of Library Special Collections was also the recipient of a gift of \$7,000 in appreciated stocks from Ms. Beulah Winchel, a Western alumna, who served many years as a librarian with the U. S. State Department's school system in Germany, France and Japan. The retired federal employee, now living in Hardinsburg, has maintained strong ties with her alma mater and has endowed other WKU programs.

Riley Handy, head of special collections, said, "Ms. Winchel is generous in her support of a number of programs at Western, including the Educational Resources Center."

Handy said Ms. Winchel is interested in Kentucky history and has visited the Kentucky Building frequently.

"We certainly appreciate her latest gift in support of the Kentucky Building programs," Handy said.

*~ Earlene Chelf*

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## **Circus in the Attic**

Circus figurines made by Hopkinsville, Ky, native John Wesley Venable, Jr. are on display in the Robert Penn Warren Room of the Kentucky building until May 31. The figurines, on loan from the Pennyroyal Museum, Hopkinsville, are significant to Robert Penn Warren's novella "The Circus in the Attic," which was published fifty years ago, and was the focus of this year's Robert Penn Warren Symposium.

It is believed that Warren based his work on Venable, who spent much of his oppressed life building circus figurines in his attic to escape the wrath of his domineering mother.

Similar to Venable, Bolton Lovehart, the main character in Warren's story, transforms such familiar items as bottle caps, cigar boxes, and lipstick holders into circus figures while in his attic. Lovehart, too, had a domineering, possessive mother.

In the article, "A Circus at the Top" (Courier-Journal Magazine, June 4, 1978) by Warren scholar Joy Bale Boone, she quoted the writer to explain the correlation between the fictional and factual "Circus in the Attic."

A friend of Warren's had briefly mentioned Venable's circus to him. Warren said, "I simply made it up from a verbal account, "scarcely more than a few sentences, given me years ago by a young man from Hopkinsville. I didn't even know the name of the circus-maker, or anything about his life, and I had more of Clarksville [Tennessee] in mind than Hopkinsville when I wrote the story. That is, for me, it was almost purely fiction."

While the similarities between Venable and Lovehart's life are evident, Boone cites many ways in which the fictional and factual stories do not match. Boone said John Venable lived in Hopkinsville, Ky, just north of the Tennessee line, the fictional Bolton Lovehart lived at Bardsville, Tenn., just south of the Kentucky border. Unlike Lovehart, John Venable never ran away to join a circus; he just ran away to the attic.

Given the similarities and differences of the lives of John Venable, Jr. and Bolton Lovehart, Warren's fans may assume that "The Circus in the Attic" is the result of a renowned author using poetic license to recreate a story about a native Kentuckian.

Boone makes an insightful observation as to the meaning of the circus in Venable's life and Lovehart's life as well. Warren readers may agree when Boone said, "The circus is a symbol of man's aloneness, a theme increasing drawn upon by Warren in his later novels and poetry, and of the vulnerability that we all share in human relationships."

"The Circus in the Attic" may be viewed during regular Kentucky Library hours: 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday; 9:30-4:00 Saturday. Arrangements for special viewing by classes and organizations may be made by calling (502) 745-6258.

*~ Ann Madison*

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## **Historic Rural Churches Featured in Photographic Exhibit**

"Come to the Church in the Wildwood: Warren County's Historic Rural Churches," an exhibit developed cooperatively with the Landmark association and the southern Kentucky Photography Society, will open at The Kentucky Museum on June 28 with special activities scheduled for 1-3 p.m.

The exhibit will photographically document 56 extant rural churches in Warren County, and is, according to Donna Parker, the museum's exhibits curator, an outgrowth of Landmark's 1995 project documenting the county's rural churches.

In addition to contemporary photographs of selected structures 50 years or older, the exhibit will also include information about the churches' architectural features, historic photographs of structures no longer in existence, a book featuring all Warren County rural churches and a section about social events surrounding the churches.

The Old Green River Union Meeting House pictured above will be among the churches featured.

In writing about this church in the Landmark publication, Jonathan Jeffrey, who is also the exhibit's curator, said this old, abandoned church, which is located near Richardsville, "lingers like a spinster awaiting her beau."

"Although decimated," Jeffrey continues, "she continues to wait, hoping for renewed spirit that comes from an adoring subject."

According to Jeffrey, the church was originally built in 1845 by Huguenot descendants and is one of 14 Huguenot shrines in the United States and the only one in Kentucky. The church congregation dates from the early nineteenth century. A log building was erected for services and in 1835 Joseph Herrell and his wife deeded two acres of land to the trustees of the Green River Union Meeting House. Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists all worshipped at this church at one time. When the Methodist Church was built in Richardsville in the mid-1940s, many who had attended Green River switched to the new church.

Although a congregation has not worshipped at Green River for many years, homecomings and reunions are still held there. Unfortunately, the church has been vandalized, with much of the flooring, windows, doors and stone steps no longer there.

"Come to the Church in the Wildwood" will be on exhibit through mid-December of this year. Partial funding for the exhibit was received from Trans Financial Bank.

*~ Earlene Chelf*

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## **Thank You**

The University was recently notified that Trans Financial Bank had donated \$8,150 to WKU, with \$2,500 designated to help underwrite The Kentucky Museum's "Rural Churches" photographic exhibit and \$3,500 to be applied to computer equipment and software for the Glasgow Campus Library.

The remainder was designated for the campus radio and television stations.

University Libraries faculty and staff wish to thank Trans Financial Bank for their continuing support of its programs and activities.

*~ Earlene Chelf*

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## **New KLN FirstSearch Databases**

The Kentucky Library Network (KLN), a consortium of public, special, school and academic libraries throughout the state, has helped libraries, WKU included, make it possible to access thirteen different electronic databases from library, office, microlab, or home. The service, called FirstSearch, is made available through OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc.), a pioneer in library automation services. These FirstSearch databases can be reached by either World Wide



Web or telnet connection (depending on whether one prefers to use a graphical interface or not). The WKU student, staff, or faculty member need only know the authorization number and the password to gain access to these databases.

Among the thirteen databases included are the very popular education database, ERIC, as well as several useful health sciences indexes, MEDLINE and CINAHL. EBSCO MasterFILE, which covers 2400 different journals, and FastDoc include many full text articles. ArticleFirst, a broad database of 12,500 journals, is an excellent database for doing general searching. The MLA Bibliography is available as well and provides access to over a million citations, from 1963 to the present, in the area of literature and the humanities. ContentsFirst contains the complete table of contents from more than 12,000 journals since 1990 and can be searched by journal title or topic.

Two of the Firstsearch databases, PapersFirst and ProceedingsFirst, contain citations of papers presented at conferences, congresses, workshops and symposia all over the world. The GPO Monthly Catalog is also available on FirstSearch for easier access to more than a half a million government publications. NetFirst, an innovative database, offers a way to discover the better quality sites from the internet and can be searched by topic. WorldCat allows one to search for an elusive book by topic by providing access to 32 million cataloging records of more than 22,000 libraries around the world.

*~ Beth Knight*

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## **Travel the Bicentennial Highway**

As a public service to the community, the University Libraries and the Kentucky Museum are maintaining a Bowling Green - Warren County Bicentennial Celebration web site. The online celebration has been designated the "Official Bicentennial Home Page" by the Bicentennial Commission. The site was activated in conjunction with the opening of the Kentucky Museum's bicentennial exhibit on March 1, 1997. Join the online festivities at <http://www.wku.edu/Library/200Years>

Visit the web site to learn about the history of Bowling Green and Warren County, follow the bicentennial festivities through the calendar of events, trace the activities of the Bicentennial Commission, or submit a proposal for an official bicentennial activity for your organization by using the online form. Future plans include transforming the calendar of events into an online scrapbook, adding virtual walking and driving tours, and expanding the current and historical information.

If you are interested in contributing to the content of the web site, contact Cindy Etkin, the Bicentennial Web Site Coordinator, at 502-745-6441 or [Cindy.Etkin@wku.edu](mailto:Cindy.Etkin@wku.edu).

*~ Cindy Etkin*

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## **WKU Glasgow Campus Site Opens New MicroLab**

The WKU Glasgow campus site opened the doors of its new microlab at the beginning of this semester. The lab, which contains more than 20 windows based computers, will allow students to both write their papers and to access all the same databases which are available at the main campus. This lab, situated near the Glasgow Campus Library and the Glasgow Campus Interactive TV room, will make it easier for students to do their research without having to travel to Bowling Green. The microlab will be used to hold classes as well as provide a place for students to do research. Students can still request books and articles to be sent back and forth between the Glasgow and Bowling Green campuses via the biweekly courier.

*~ Beth Knight*

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## **University Archives is on the Move!**

President Meredith's discussions concerning "Moving to the New Level" have directly impacted the work of University Archives. Finance and CIS faculty members Dr. Jack Stallard and Dr. Linda Johnson conducted a study of Western's record keeping practices in the summer of 1996. Based on their recommendations to the Board of Regents, President Meredith appointed a Records Management Team. The team hired Kiku Gaudioso as Records Analyst and Sue Lynn McGuire as University Archivist in December 1996.

This spring the University will purchase compact shelving, enabling the University Archives to move from its current location in the Helm Library's basement to the Kentucky building. Researchers and university personnel will find the Manuscripts and Archives reading room more conducive to their work. The reference collection, as well as technical processing, will be housed on the third floor, with additional stacks located on the ground level of the 1979 expansion. This summer Dr. Stallard and Dr. Johnson will train university personnel in proper records management techniques. University offices will be able to destroy (with appropriate approval) inactive records and transfer permanent historical records to the University Archives once they learn how to make proper use of the state Records Retention Schedule.

*~ Sue Lynn McGuire*

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## **Know Your Libraries**

Are you really familiar with the WKU Libraries? In honor of National Library Week, we'd like to take this opportunity to reacquaint you with the range and variety of what is available to you.

The WKU Libraries include:

The Educational Resources Center in Tate Page Hall specializes in materials, from textbooks to kits, for beginning teachers and other educators. The ERC also includes an extensive collection of children's and young adult books.

The Helm-Craven's Library, two buildings merged into one academic library, is the main library where the circulating collection and the periodicals section are located. The general reference center resides at this location as well, along with the Government Documents and the Law Collections.

The Kentucky Building houses the Special Collections, which contain the Kentucky Library (the place to go to do genealogical research), the Manuscripts and Folklife Archives, the Kentucky Museum, and (soon) the University Archives.

The Glasgow Campus Library, located at the Western Kentucky University Glasgow Campus, is not only a nice place to study, do research, or access some ready reference materials, but provides access to the resources of the rest of the WKU Libraries via computer, fax and courier.

All of the WKU Libraries have many knowledgeable librarians, staff and students who can assist you with your needs. If you haven't visited one of our libraries for a while, please stop in and see how we can serve you.

~ Beth Knight

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## University Libraries WWW Workshops

Every semester the libraries offer a wide variety of workshops on an assortment of topics from fashion web sites or children's literature to searching the web more effectively. These workshops are held on various weekdays and during different times to reach a wider audience. We hope that you will take the time to attend one in the future!

April 14, 1997

*CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE ON THE INTERNET*

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the InfoLab (Helm 108)

April 17, 1997

*INVESTIGATING MURDER MYSTERIES ON THE INTERNET*

7:00 p.m. in the InfoLab (Helm 108)

April 18, 1997

*EFFECTIVE WEB SEARCHING WORKSHOP*

2:30 - 4: 00 p.m. in the InfoLab (Helm 108)

June 12, 1997

*A WWW GUIDE TO CONSUMER HEALTH*

7:00 p.m. in the InfoLab (Helm 108)

June 26, 1997

*BASEBALL ON THE WWW*

7:00 p.m. in the InfoLab (Helm 108)

July 10, 1997

*CRAFTS VIA THE WWW*

7:00 p.m. in the InfoLab (Helm 108)

July 24, 1997

*HUNTING ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES USING THE WWW*

7:00 p.m. in the InfoLab (Helm 108)

The University Libraries offers WWW workshops for faculty, staff, students, and the public all year round. If you would like more information about upcoming library workshops and events, please call (502) 745-6115 or visit the library's web site at: <http://www.wku.edu/Library>

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## Expanded Library Hours

Last fall semester the Helm-Cravens library expanded its hours so that it was open until midnight every night of the week. This is an additional seven hours on Friday and Saturday nights. It was necessary to create seven part-time positions to accommodate the-increased hours. Since implementing the extended hours the library has seen an overall usage increase of 21 percent from the previous semester.

Statistics indicate that the most heavily used area during the extended hours is the Student Technology Center with 69 percent of the late night patrons. Cravens stacks garnered 15 percent of the business with the Periodicals Section following closely with 11 percent of the use. Reference, Documents, and the Law Collections attracted 6 percent of the use.

*~ Doug Wiles, Beth Knight, and Cindy Etkin*

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## Introducing the InfoLab

This spring, WKU unveiled the new InfoLab in the University Libraries. The InfoLab is situated in the Helm reference area, room 108. This lab, which contains sixteen windows-based computers, was designed as a teaching aid, although, when classes are not being conducted, it will be open to library users 6-10, Sunday-Thursday. Classes receiving research instruction in the library will often end up in the InfoLab so that the students may get a little practical hands on experience with the library's electronic resources, under the guidance of their instructor or library staff. The computers in the InfoLab are to be used for research only and are dedicated to accessing the electronic research tools to which the library subscribes.

*~ Beth Knight*

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## Circulation Area Gets a New Look

During the week of finals this past fall semester the circulation area was given a fresh coat of paint. The crisp light shade, called "utopia," blends well with the new carpeting which was installed earlier last year. New, color co-ordinated chairs have replaced the old ones in is area as well. The chairs complement the updated decor while increasing student comfort and study space at the same time. Renovations to the Front doors at the entrance of Helm-Cravens were completed in February. Additional work on some of the restrooms have been underway in the University Libraries to provide more facilities for the physically challenged than ever before.

~ Beth Knight

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WOMEN'S RIGHTS PIONEER:

### **Susan B. Anthony**

*Subject of Dramatic Performance*

The Kentucky Library and the Pierian Literary Club co-sponsored a presentation entitled "Susan B. Anthony: The Napoleon of the Movement," a one-woman show performed by Melinda Strobel on March 9 for Women's History Month.

Anthony's 50th birthday celebration was the setting for the performance about the woman who was instrumental in shaping the political rights of American women. From 1850 until her death in 1906, she generaled the troops, organized meetings, canvassed with petitions, lectured and brought women of all stations to a clearer understanding of their rights as human beings and as citizens of the United States. Her single-minded determination and courage pursued enfranchisement for women, earning her the title, "The Napoleon of the movement."

Strobel's appearance at the Kentucky Library, which drew over sixty people, was part of a ten-city tour across Kentucky and was made possible by a grant from the Kentucky Humanities Council, a state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

~ Earlene Chelf

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