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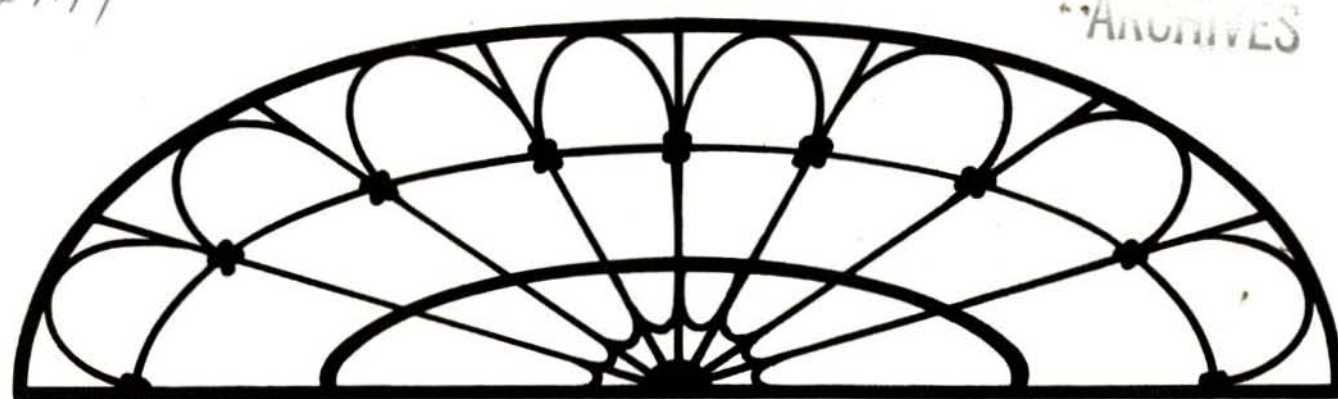
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THE FANLIGHT

Vol. 7, No. 1

A Publication of Western Kentucky University Libraries

Winter, 1990



Editor's Note: This column is reserved for articles written by individuals from offices or departments across campus. Dr. Eugene E. Evans is a Professor in the Management and Marketing Department and represents the faculty on the University's Board of Regents.

The Kentucky Building houses a vast store of photographs—some twelve thousand in all—which affords many opportunities for highly enjoyable retrospective journeys. Ready access to the various collections is afforded by thirty-three large binders filled with photocopies: the originals are safely stored to minimize wear and tear.

There is voluminous documentation of the way things were "on the Hill," and Westerners can find many pictures taken of old friends

NOTES FROM THE HILL

The Kentucky Building Photograph Collections

Adventures in Good Looking

By Dr. Eugene E. Evans

amateurism about them—they do not appear to have spent most of their waking hours working out.

The other two photographs shown were taken during the first decade of this century and are also of local interest. The picture of the children in a goat-drawn wagon escorted by sundry chickens should touch the most sclerotic heart. It comes from the Kebabian Collection, which primarily consists of family portraits, but also includes some scenes of Bowling Green. In my judgment, the picture of man and his best friend captures a glimpse of peace and contentment to be enjoyed for generations to come. It is part of the Kummer Collection, which documents rural life in Simpson County, specifically in Schwellzer, a small German Lutheran community within walking distance of Franklin.

Of course, a few photographs cannot convey the depth and breadth of the collections, but they may give some idea of what is available.

An examination of the holdings will also reveal much about the development of photography in the nineteenth century, for there are, *inter alia*, daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and tintypes; *cartes de visite* and cabinet cards; magic lantern slides and stereographs—a veritable bonanza for photography enthusiasts!

In short, these collections compose a rich vein of material for the serious scholar and the dilettante alike. Mining it will prove most rewarding.

(Special thanks to Nancy Baird for the accelerated course in early photography and local history.)



Dr. Eugene Evans (left) chats with departmental colleague Dr. Brian Sullivan.

when they were not so old. However, the Western-related photographs here displayed are from times much earlier than most readers are apt to remember. The first, taken around 1895, shows a group of women from Potter College on a picnic. In selecting it, I was influenced by several features: the Victorian attire; the vehicle, which I take to be a wagonette with a canopy top, perhaps the precursor of the van so popular today; and the span of horses and their driver, patiently standing by.

The second, which I found irresistible, is a picture of the Western football team of 1920-23. In 1922, during Coach Diddle's first

season, this team won nine of ten games, besting Louisville and thrashing Eastern. In this view, the players have a refreshing air of

THE FANLIGHT

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COVER PHOTO: "A Beautiful Representation of the Christmas Tree" is copied from the December 25, 1852, edition of *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion* (Vol. III, No. 26, p. 412) found in the Kentucky Library. This well-known engraving of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert helped to popularize the custom of decorating trees at Christmas-time

E-300

Room E-300 is the Kentucky Museum's largest storage area. When artifacts are not on exhibit, they are stored in this climate-controlled area where exposure to light and other harmful conditions can be kept to a minimum. "E-300," a regular column in *THE FANLIGHT*, features objects from the Museum's collections.

MICKEY MOUSE AS A COLLECTIBLE

By Sandra Staebell

On November 18, 1928, Mickey Mouse debuted at the Colony Theater in New York City in the animated film *Steamboat Willie*. The cartoon and toy industries were never the same again!

Walt Disney quickly recognized the merchandising potential of his mouse and began licensing Mickey Mouse's image for use on a number of items, particularly toys. On February 3, 1930, Disney signed a contract with toymaker George Borgefelt of New York. The contract stipulated that Disney would receive a 2-1/2 percent royalty on items selling for \$.50 or less and 5 percent on items costing more than \$.50.

Beginning in 1930, Mickey Mouse's likeness appeared on a wide variety of objects: figurines, toothbrush holders, carpet sweepers, toy telephones, bars of soap, sand pails, and pop-up books. Between 1931 and 1937 Sears, Roebuck and Co. sold at least twenty-nine different Mickey Mouse items through its mail order catalog. The cheapest item, a Halloween costume, cost \$.19 in 1934, while the most expensive item, a pocket watch, sold for \$2.98 in 1937.

Although Disney continued licensing Mickey Mouse's image over the next fifty years, items made between 1928 and 1938 are considered most desirable by collectors.

The museum toy collection contains three examples of Mickey Mouse Disneyana. The earliest artifact is a tin plate bearing the likeness of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and a chicken. Measuring 4-1/4 inches in diameter, the plate is marked "Ohio Art U.S.A." and "W.D. Ent." The later marking indicates the plate was made prior to 1939 because after 1938 all items were marked "Walt Disney Productions" or "W.D.P."

The second collectible, a Mickey Mouse xylophone, probably dates from the late 1940s or the early



Registrar Sandy Staebell (right) collects data about the Mickey Mouse doll from donor Nancy Rascoe. The information gathered will be placed in a file which is maintained for every museum artifact.

1950s. Made by Line-Mar Toys in Japan, the mechanical toy is composed entirely of tin except for the mouse's rubber tail. Both the xylophone and the plate were donated to the museum in 1972 by Daviess County toy collector Orbra E. King.

The third and most recently acquired collectible is a Mickey Mouse doll dating from the 1950s. Donated by Nancy Lynn Rascoe, the doll has a plastic body and rubber hands, face and shoes. Made by Gund Manufacturing Company, the doll was a gift from Buddy and Joy Cates to the donor

when she was three months old. The doll had been part of the unsold stock of the CDS #4 drug-store in Bowling Green, which the Cates acquired in 1970.

For more information about Disneyana, ask for the following books in the Kentucky Library:

- *Stern's Guide to Disney Collectibles* by Michael Stern.
- *Collectible Toys and Games of the Twenties and Thirties From Sears, Roebuck and Co. Catalogs.*
- *Warman's Price Guide to Antiques*

In keeping with the University's holiday schedule, the Kentucky Building will be closed from December 22 through January 1. Regular hours will resume on Wednesday, January 2, 1991.



MUSEUM S

Basketmakers gather around Beth Hester for "Where do I go from here?" instructions. Twenty-five people participated in the all-day workshop sponsored by the museum on October 13.

Leadership Bowling Green class members get a Kentucky Library "quick course" from Librarian Connie Mills (back to camera). The class ate lunch and then toured the Kentucky Building on Media and Arts Day, October 17.



Dr. Michael Ridley (left) of Hopkinsville, Ky., hands over the keys to his 1930 Chevrolet to Museum Director Larry Scott. The car, which was donated to the museum by Dr. Ridley, will be on exhibit at the museum sometime after the first of the year.

CRAPBOOK

Kentucky Museum Advisory Council members get a "Behind-the-Scenes" tour of the museum's collections storage area. New council members recently appointed by President Thomas Meredith are Lucinda Anderson, Buddy Carter, Billie Dickinson, Henry Hardin and Jo Jean Scott.



Volunteer percussionists get "on the spot" training from members of Fritz's German Band, the group who provided the entertainment for OKTO-BERFEST. Approximately 350 people attended this fundraiser on October 20.



Western's Physical Plant staff hang the banner publicizing the opening of the furniture exhibit.



Felts House Bicentennial Project

Notification was received in mid-October that The Kentucky Museum's Felts Log House Project grant proposal was funded by the Kentucky Bicentennial Commission. The \$10,000 grant, the maximum allowed for a single project, will come from a million dollar trust fund established by the 1990 General Assembly to support Bicentennial celebration projects in Kentucky counties.

To meet the grant guidelines, the Warren County Bicentennial Committee was required to match the state funds \$2 to \$1. In addition to "in-kind" contributions, a cash donation of \$7,300, generously supplied by the Warren County Fiscal Court and Judge-Executive Basil Griffin, made it possible for the museum's proposal to comply with the guidelines.

The Felts house, an authentic 1820s log structure, originally stood

by the Gasper River in northeast Logan County. After it was donated

to the museum in the late 1970s by Sam Houston Watkins, it was moved to its present location adjacent to the Kentucky Building. Exterior restoration was

completed sometime ago, but funds were not available to acquire furnishings for the interior.

When asked, Larry Scott, the grant project director, said, "We are pleased to receive the Kentucky Bicentennial Commission grant and the additional funds from the Warren County Fiscal Court. The public and the museum staff have waited anxiously for the time when the Felts house would be furnished. This funding will allow us to achieve that goal in time for the Bicentennial celebration in 1992."

*"The Felts House
...originally stood
by the
Gasper River ..."*

Become a Docent!

Each year, the demand for guided tours of the museum increases. For example, during December alone, six groups of approximately fifty schoolchildren were scheduled **daily** for Christmas programs. This means that the December visitation by school groups alone totalled **nearly 4,000!**

Many of the tours conducted annually are given by **DOCENTS**, individuals who are trained to interpret museum exhibits and artifacts. If you would like to become a docent, please contact Dianne Watkins, Education Curator, (502) 745-6082. Training sessions are being planned for early January, and Dianne would be happy to "sign you up."

QUILT EXHIBIT POSTER WINS AWARD

The Southeastern Museums Conference presents The Publications Design Gold Award to

The Kentucky Museum for (the) poster

"Piece By Piece"

in recognition of high standards of excellence in museum publication design.

So reads the certificate which was accepted on behalf of the museum by Larry Scott at SEMC's annual meeting in Charleston, W.Va., in mid-October.

Each year, member museums in this twelve-state organization are invited to participate in SEMC's Publications Design competition. Jurying is completed in time for the entries to be exhibited and the winners announced at the group's annual meeting.

For this year's competition,

nineteen museums submitted 58 entries in 9 different categories. From these, an impartial, three-member panel of jurors selected the Logan County quilt exhibit poster to receive this year's **GOLD AWARD**.

The award-winning poster was designed by Tom Tutino, a former museum staff member who is now an assistant professor in WKU's Department of Theatre and Dance. The poster was among the promotional items for "Piece By Piece: A

Sampling Of Logan County Quilts," exhibited from April 15 through June 17 of this year.

The exhibit, underwritten by the Margie Helm Library Fund, an endowment in Western's College Heights Foundation, was a collaborative effort by the museum and the Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society. KHQS, along with the Auburn Hosiery Mills, also donated funds to help print the exhibit promotional materials.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1991 CALENDAR

January 15

"Black Women: Achievement Against the Odds" opens in Gallery P (Garden Gallery). Organized by the Smithsonian Institution, the exhibit is funded by the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation. (Closes March 17, 1991)

February 15

"Official Images: New Deal Photography" opens in Gallery J. Organized by the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). (Closes March 17, 1991)

June 9

"Yesterday's Children" opens in Gallery J. Toured by Exhibits USA, a National Division of Mid-America Arts Alliance. (Closes July 10, 1991)

July 4

Fourth of July Celebration. Funded by Citizens National Bank, Bowling Green, and Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Glasgow, Trans Financial Banks.

August 11

"CAE Presents Needle Expressions '90" opens in Gallery J. Organized by the Council of American Embroiderers. (Closes September 8, 1991).

Oktoberfest Fund-Raiser a Big Success!

The Kentucky Museum Associates' OKTOBERFEST, held on October 20th, was a huge success. Everyone who attended had a great time and several thousand dollars were raised to support the museum's exhibits and programs.

The success of this event can be attributed to many:

- Martin Automotive Group for a major contribution to help fund this event.
- Davenport Travel for donating the raffle prize—two round-trip tickets to Germany.
- Patty Robertson for designing and printing the souvenir shirts and mugs.
- Members of Beta Chi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha who

helped sell the commemorative items during OKTOBERFEST.

- The Kentucky Museum Associates Committee who, under the leadership of Jeane Robertson, did a fantastic job planning the event.
- Individuals, businesses, corporations who bought tickets; the commemorative T-shirts, sweatshirts, and mugs; and chances on the trip.

The wonderful turnout for OKTOBERFEST is evidence of the tremendous support The Kentucky Museum enjoys in this community. Thanks to all of you!



NEW EMPLOYEES

New staff have been hired in each of the three areas of the Kentucky Building in the past few weeks. Above (left) Jonathan Jeffery, who joined the professional staff in the Kentucky Library in August, confers with Betty Yambrek about the guide to the Tim Lee Carter Collection. Yambrek is a part-time Archival Assistant in Manuscripts and Folklife Archives. The Kentucky Museum's newest staff member is Todd Duren (left), Exhibits Preparator. Duren is shown mounting labels for the furniture exhibit.



The Kentucky Museum Store

Presents

The Christmas Shop

CLEARANCE SALE

40% OFF

JANUARY 4 - 11, 1991

Hours: 10:00 - 4:00 Tues. - Sat.
1:00 - 4:30 Sun.

No fee to shop in The Museum Store



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Happy Holidays

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