Bowling Green Native Worked With the Big Guys

Ben Harris

Seeing the world and working in a field that utilizes your talents and generates lasting accomplishments are two things to which many people aspire. Edward Austin Duckett, a native of Bowling Green and a retired architect, was able to do both. Duckett acknowledges his good fortune in a humble manner that belies his talent—a talent that led him to work with one of this century's great architects and, later, for the country's largest architectural firm.

Duckett was born in Warren County, Kentucky, in 1920. His immediate family, of which he is the only survivor, was comprised of his father, Chester, a local hardware dealer, his mother Zula, an organist at Kerr Memorial Methodist Church, a brother, Wayne, and a sister, Sarah. Duckett's early life experience was quintessential small town for the era. When the Depression struck the family simply made the backyard of their Kentucky Street house into a garden. Moreover, the materials at the hardware store that employed Chester were often traded to local farmers for food items. Despite the money shortage, Austin and Sarah were each given fifteen cents most Saturdays in order to go watch a movie and enjoy a box of popcorn by this time.

Since early childhood, Duckett has been aware of his natural artistic ability, and by the time he enrolled in Bowling Green High School, an interest in architecture had developed by this time, but admittedly, his college education progressed, the art department head and family friend, Ivan Wilson, began to "promote" Duckett's intrinsic architectural ability. Duckett accompanied Wilson on trips and was afforded opportunities to show his work. Such promotion, from an artist that Duckett describes as brilliant, appears to be the deciding factor in his career choice. With approximately eighteen credit hours remaining to complete his degree at Western, Duckett went to Chicago to receive formal training as an architect.

The fondness with which Duckett speaks of Wilson is unequivocal evidence that the two grew to know each other well. He describes him as "the most sensitive man I ever knew...he was sensitive to everything." Artistically, Wilson taught Edward Austin Duckett

(continued on page 5)
The Landmark Association of Bowling Green - Warren County

A non-profit organization established in 1976 as a community advocate for preservation, protection and maintenance of architectural, cultural and archaeological resources in Bowling Green and Warren County.

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Landmark Report encourages unsolicited articles or suggestions for articles and will consider all for publication. Advertising rates are available upon request.

February 1999

Architectural Details

March 6—Save the Date. Come join us for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tour the cherished remains of the Talbott Tavern in Bardstown prior to its restoration. Project architect and Landmark Association president-elect, David Bryant will lead us on the tour on Saturday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. After the tour, we will have lunch together, then tour a home in the area. Attendees can then fan out to take other tours of local attractions or go antiquing in Bardstown's quaint shops. The tour cost is $10 which does not include lunch; five dollars of the fee will go to an endowment fund to restore the Talbott Tavern mural. Traveling to Bardstown is on-your-own, but call Jonathan Jeffrey (781-0873) for car pooling possibilities. Further information about this event will be forthcoming.

After last week's announcement about Bowling Green's L&N depot, many may be interested in pursuing the scenarios presented by the architect for the property. The preliminary report submitted by the architect is on reserve at the Bowling Green Public Library. The report must be reviewed in the building, it is not available for check out.

Warren County native, Lena Sweeten, has completed her thesis at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Local citizens may be interested in her topic, "Historic Preservation Theory and the Experience of a Community of Workers: A Case Study of Bowling Green, Kentucky." She has donated a copy to the Kentucky Building, and it can be viewed in the Manuscripts/Archives section of the building.

Many have asked about the construction project at 908 State Street. The Bowling Green Historic Preservation Board reviewed this project recently for compliance with the Historic Zoning overlay for Fountain Square Park. The building is being remodeled for office space.

The National Park Service, Heritage Preservation, and Harry N. Abrams, Inc. have teamed up to produce a heavily illustrated new book entitled, Caring for Your Historic House. It provides expert advice on home maintenance that ranges from the general ("Why Care About Your Historic House") to the specific ("Interior Woodwork"). Each chapter is written by a different expert. The 356-page volume, with 187 illustration is available for $39.95 in hardback, $29.50 in paperback plus shipping and handling. Contact Heritage Preservation at (202) 634-1422. If you would like to purchase a copy prior to publication, visit the Kentucky Building and ask for the book using the following call number TH 4817 .C39 1996.

The Landmark Association welcomes Catherine Klingmen as the new director of Historic Riverview at Hobson Grove.

May 9-15 has been designated as National Preservation Week by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Bowling Green's Florence Nightingale

Sandy Stahl

Capito worked at the City-County Hospital atop Main Street's Hill. Robert E. Turbeville, who went on to have a thriving architectural practice in Nashville, designed the building in the mid-1900s. The unusual gardens surrounding the building were executed by Richard J. Grode of Evanston, Illinois. More about this work in the next Landmark Report.

Landmark Association

Flea Market

We hope you've been saving your fleas for this fifth biannual Flea Market on Saturday, April 3. Our chairs Rick Voakes (934-9333) and George Morris (785-7784) are ready to start scratching. Call them about picking up your fleas for the sale. We have a storage site at this time, so please don't wait until the last moment. We can do a lot of work ahead of time when items come in early. We have found that the best selling items include:

- Toys
- Small Furniture
- Collectibles
- Kitchen Ware
- Utensils
- China
- Glassware
- Silverware
- Tools
- Lawn Equipment
- Christmas Decorations
- New Books
- Lamps
- Hardware

Remember we do not accept clothing and gifts are tax deductible.

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Once the idea took hold, hospital administration moved quickly ahead with plans for the new unit. Adjacent to 2E was a patient ward that had initially been built as a sun room, and this area was chosen for the unit. The "short hall" of 2E was chosen to receive the improving patients as they were released from the coronary care unit. Remodeling began and a small glass enclosed nurses' station was built. Staff created four patient bed areas using curtains to partition the room. Each bed cubicle had a cardiac monitor, with wall outlets for suction and oxygen.

The nursing administration chose Capito to serve as the coronary care unit's first head nurse. In 1994, prior to the unit's opening Capito traveled to Kansas City to undertake three months of training. Back in Bowling Green, Capito went to work choosing and educating staff, writing policies and procedures, and stocking the new coronary care unit. She chose Nellie Hedges, a nurse's aide, as one of the unit's initial staff.

Hedges remembers the many differences in coronary patient care in those days. The patients in the unit typically had the diagnosis of chest pain or myocardial infarction. The patient's stay in the unit was usually for one week with another two to three weeks on floor 2E for further rest and recovery. Patient care was quite strict with bedrest maintained for one week. The patient was not even allowed to open their own milk carton. Periodically the patient was turned to their side, a back rub given, and then they were returned to lie of their back again. After one week, they were allowed to use a bedside commode, dangle on the side of the bed, and feed themselves. No teaching regarding prevention of cardiac disease was given to the patients. Ventilators were used infrequently. Adhesive gel type electrodes were not in use yet; needle electrodes were employed (small needles inserted subcutaneously under the skin and taped down). Attendants strictly enforced visiting hours. Family members of a dying patient waited outside the coronary care unit doors and were not allowed to visit every thirty minutes.

Devita McFarland, R.N. and Sharon Hess On, R.N. were both nurses in the coronary care unit in its early years. McFarland remembers that Capito developed an emergency "Code Cart" for use in the unit. Stocked with a defibrillator and emergency drugs it was an important adjunct for patient care. The unit saw many successful "code" results even in its early years.

A recurring theme emerged from all of the staff who remembered Capito. All spoke of her great support for the nurses who worked under her and also of the emphasis she placed on training. Hess On recalls that Capito "put a lot of herself into her teaching." She instructed coronary care staff for a three month period on such topics as cardiac medications and emergency drugs, defibrillation (which the nurses would perform during arrest situations), and dysrhythmias. Even today, in her current practice area of home health care, Hess On says she still comes in contact with patients who remember being cared for by Capito.

McFarland has fond memories of Capito also. She recalled that Capito could be "strict with her nurses, but always stood up for her nurses too." McFarland worked a number of years in the coronary care unit under Capito. After an extended hiatus from nursing, McFarland applied for a new hospital position in another state. She was given a test on dysrhythmias and emergency cardiac medications. Not aware that such a test would be required, she had not reviewed the material. She passed the rhythm strip section with no errors and missed very few medication questions. After this, she realized what a wonderful teacher Capito was.

Hedges also has great recollections of Capito, particularly the high level of holistic care she delivered to her patients. Hedges said Capito was very religious and felt that it was important that a patient's spiritual needs be met. A good example of this holistic care was a middle aged male patient who stated he was an atheist when questioned about his religious preference. This patient suffered a cardiac arrest in the coronary care unit and survived. He remained critically ill following this "code" event. He told the staff that during the "code" he had seen and spoken with his father who was deceased. Capito made arrangements and helped bring this critically ill patient to a bathroom two floors away. Here in a large bathtub, a minister submerged this man as he had requested. Thus, Capito helped bring peace and "saving" to this patient. The man died a few days later. Would many nurses have gone to such trouble to see that a patient's spiritual needs be met?

Betty Capito, R.N. died in May 1980 at the age of fifty-seven and was buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Bowling Green. She is remembered by her nurses, particularly the respect of her colleagues—both medical and nursing staff, hospital administration, and most importantly her patients. Currently, Bowling Green has access to a new more modern coronary care unit at the Medical Center. Right inside the door of this unit hangs a print that helps current practitioners of critical care to remember their past. The gold plate on this print reads: "In Memory of Betty Capito, R.N."

(Cover Story Continued)

Duckett a certain concept of the use of space that would manifest itself in virtually all of Duckett's work.

The year 1942 marked an exciting and new point in Duckett's life. With only a few thousand dollars and his new bride, Blanche, whom he met while both were working at the local post office, Duckett moved to Chicago in hopes of enrolling at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). Soon after passing the entrance exam and commencing his studies, he was introduced to German architect Mies van der Rohe. The head of the architectural department at the Institute, van der Rohe had viewed some of Duckett's drafts and found them quite impressive. Consequently, Duckett was asked to assist in the architectural drafting of the buildings that were being erected on the Institute's campus. This was the beginning of a working relationship that spanned over two decades.

Over the next few years Duckett held a position teaching some of the freshman classes at IIT while still helping van der Rohe with various projects. By 1949 the architectural duo had discovered their true path within the field—the skyscraper. Duckett holds firm in his conviction that "true architecture is practiced on public buildings, where more than one person lives...or works." For Duckett the house is a very personalized construction, subject to an individual's pleasure or displeasure.

The first high-rise designed by van der Rohe's firm was Chicago's Promontory apartments, finished in 1949. The firm went on to design several noteworthy structures, including the Lakeshore Drive apartments in Chicago (1959), the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston (1957), the Seagram Building in New York (1958), and the Lafayette Park apartments in Detroit (1963). Projects in van der Rohe's native Germany included the Mannheim Theater (1953) and the National Gallery in Berlin (1965).

Duckett acknowledges the avant-garde methodology of van der Rohe in terms of strengthening a structure from the core by using internal, peripheral columns. This method leaves the most open space possible. Once again, Duckett was under the influence of an artist who placed tremendous importance on the use of space.

(Continued on page 8)
Our population in the main were taken by surprise and as may be readily imagined more or less painfully moved. The friends of the invaders seemed much delighted. The first act of vandalism committed by the army was the shooting at and tearing down the United States flag which had been placed at much cost and trouble, over the depot by Union mechanics and others concerned with the railroad. This to union men who witnessed it, was a most painful and mortifying sight, as we gazed upon its proud folds pierced by rebel bullets and torn to pieces by rebel hands. We could but feel it to be an imagery of widespread ruin to our country. The intention of the leaders of the army at first was a move directly upon Louisville, but the promptness of Gen. Ransom prevented this and the Confederate army gained no further points than Green River, Bowling Green being their headquarters.

Gen. Buckner set forth in his proclamation that he came not to destroy but to rescue us from the then tyranny of the Lincoln administration and to see that the civil rights of the people should not be taken from them by a legislature which he assured us, not in league with the authorities at Washington to enslave us in the most abject manner.

But a short time after this flattering promise, under the protection of the military authority a few men mostly refugees from the northern part of the state, assisted by a small fraction of malcontents at home established for this corner of the state the most absolute tyranny under the name of a provisional government without ever so much as consulting the people as to their wishes in relation to a matter of such vast importance. The citizens submitted with the best grace they could to a mockery of government they could not resist. One of the first acts of this self constituted body was to allow calling for all the guns in the state, or in lieu thereof twenty dollars from each citizen over 18 years of age. The law was mostly promptly complied with by our community, the penalties for noncompliance were such as to insure the faithful compliance with the full demands of the acts. Guns of all shapes, sizes, and ages were gathered in, not one in five fit for military service, but that was no reason for not taking the gun. The object being mainly to disarm union men. As proof of this these guns were not used, nor were guns as a general rule taken from sympathizers with the resolution. Judges were removed who refused to take an oath to support the Confederate government. Magistrates and sheriffs likewise. State revenues were collected and used to support this occupation. Their acts being without authority our citizens were imposed upon to the amount of money paid, as the state must collect these same liabilities again.

A military government proved to be very distasteful to our people, one among the first acts was an order from the general commanding calling upon all owners of wagons and rules to bring them forth on a certain day for the use of the army either to be bought or hired at the option of the authorities. Our farmers preferred selling to hiring although the trade was to be made from party alone, and not by two as is usual in times of peace. Several hundred teams were bought and paid for in Southern currency, then from twenty five to thirty percent below par. Much of this confederate money was kept on hand especially by those who had faith that the revolution would ultimately succeed. That kind of funds has been depreciating ever since.

Military necessities know no bounds and as the Southern Confederacy runs in a straight for the supplies of war from the beginning, it was to be expected that the dealings of the army with our people would not be the most liberal and we were not disappointed. Horse Teams, salt, forage, and indeed everything the army needed that was in the hands of the people were taken without ceremony and with such compensation as the taker pleased to give.

Fortifications on a large scale were made on all the eligible points in the vicinity of the town. Groves were cut down and great injury done the beautiful scenery once beautifying our town and suburbs. During five months the army was actively engaged upon the fortifications and when they were completed no doubt was felt but that they were simply able to protect it against any and all opposing forces. Their strength was never tested to the surprise of the army and the citizens, about the 1st of Feb. orders were given for the hasty evacuation of the place, on the 15th Gen. Mitchell made his appearance on the north banks of Barren River, just in time to see the rear of the Confederate army in its precipitate flight. A few shots were fired by the Federal army in to the town which greatly hastened the retreat of the few forces still remaining. The bridges having been destroyed. There was no chance for the Federal army to pursue til after a delay of twenty hours by which time the enemy had escaped beyond danger. At this time General Grant was engaged reducing the fortifications on the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers which was the cause of the evacuation of this place.

Civil War maps of Bowling Green (1863), printed by the Landmark Association, are available at the Kentucky Museum, Riverview, and Out of the Ordinary on Fountain Square.
CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT MEMORIALIZES COURAGEOUS KENTUCKIANS

"A Kind of Nobility: The Kentucky Orphan Brigade," an exhibit organized by the Museum of the Confederacy (Richmond, Va.), to memorialize the many brave soldiers who fought in the First Kentucky Brigade during the Civil War, will be at the Kentucky Museum until July 31, 1999. It is being sponsored locally by HISTAR Bank.

Besides the artifacts and materials on loan from the Museum of the Confederacy, additional items from the Faison Club, the Kentucky Historical Society/Military Museum, the Jacob Hiestand House Museum, the Orphan Brigade Kinkfolk Association, and the Kentucky Building collections will complement the traveling exhibit.

Primarily made up of the 9th, 4th, 6th and 9th Kentucky Infantry regiments, the Kentucky Orphan Brigade, composed of soldiers from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, fought predominantly in the Western Theater (Between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River).

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Although President Abraham Lincoln proved successful in keeping Kentucky, not all Kentuckians fought for the Union. Ninety thousand Kentuckians enlisted in the Federal army, while approximately 85,000 of their friends and family left Kentucky to fight with the Confederate army, orphaned from their homes and family during the war.

The First Kentucky Brigade received its nickname shortly after the battle of Stones River (Dec. 1862-Jan. 1863). Tradition says that after that battle, a fierce engagement resulting in devastating loss of lives, Major General John C. Breckinridge is said to have lamented, "Oh, my poor orphans!" Although Breckinridge is credited as the first to refer to the First Kentucky brigade as "orphans," the exact origin of the name may never be known.

Through the use of flags, military uniforms, weapons, letters, diary entries and photographs, "A Kind of Nobility" provides a glimpse into the lives of both the officers and enlisted men who fought in the Orphan Brigade. Although the exhibit highlights some very famous Kentuckians, such as John C. Breckinridge, Simon Bolivar Buckner and John Hunt Morgan, its intent is to pay tribute to the enlisted men who fought with great valor while exiled from their home state.

Ed Porter Thompson, the 6th quartermaster who is considered the Brigade's first and primary historian, wrote: "However this war may terminate, if a man can truthfully claim to have been a worthy member of the Kentucky Brigade he will have a kind of nobility."

No men in the Confederate States have marched more, fought more, suffered more, or had so little opportunities for discipline; yet they are today as orderly and as well disciplined as any cavalry in the Confederate service... I must particularly commend my Kentucky troops...

General Joseph Wheeler, 1864

February 1999

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

New Members
Laura McGee Jackson
Jay & Ann Love
Anne Lesemann
Vicki Hawkins

Individual
Dr. Alan Anderson
Mrs. B.G. Davidson
Mrs. James Godfrey
Merthel Hazelip
Betty Boyd Lyne
David W. Rabold
Judy Woosley

Renewals
Supporting
David McGee

Family
Thomas & Roma Baldwin
Harold Brantley
Dr. Glen R. Carwell
Mrs. Joe Davenport
Stan Edwards
John & Sandra Petersen

Sustaining
Architectural Service of Kentucky

Sumpter Donations
Mrs. Joe Davenport
Jonathan Jeffrey
Cora Jane Spiller

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A Successful
Bungalow Christmas Tour

Despite inclimate weather the Association once again had its most successful Christmas tour to date, with over 220 people touring the beautiful bungalows on Magnolia Street. Who will forget the Love's unique kitchen shelves made from doors, or Anne Lesemann's nutcracker collection, or the Slaughters' beadboard kitchen ceiling, or Vicki Hawkins's spacious closet, or the tile bathroom in Diana Edwards' home? We would first like to thank our sponsor Myer Mortgage for helping underwrite this important fundraiser for the Association. We also extend our appreciation to the homeowners: Diana Edwards, Anne Lesemann, Vicki Hawkins, Jay & Ann Love, and Jim & Dawn Slaughter. Kudos to tour committee: Jonathan Jeffrey, Jean Thomason, and Dawn Slaughter. Special thanks to Jim & Dawn Slaughter for sponsoring the house party after the tour for our workers. Speaking of our workers, thanks to:

Rick & Sylvia Voakes
David Bryant
Ward Begley
Ruth Jerd
George & Jane Morris
Hugh & Jean Thomason
Rick & Susan McCue

Joyce Rasdell
Linda Todd
John Perkins
Jonathan Jeffrey
Laura Harper Lee
Lynwood Montell


Ruth Jerd and Jane Morris enjoy refreshments after their tour of duty.

Homeowner Vicki Hawkins gets the tree ready for the Open House.

February 1999 Landmark Report 11
Perhaps you could pass this newsletter along to someone you think would be interested in supporting Landmark's efforts in historic preservation advocacy.

I (we) want to support the Historic Preservation efforts in Bowling Green and Warren County.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ____________ Zip ______________

Telephone __________________________

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I have enclosed $____________ to support the Irene Moss Sumpter Preservation Endowment Fund.

Checks should be payable to:

Landmark Association
P.O. Box 1812
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1812
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED