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Landmark Report (Vol. 21, no. 6)

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THE LANDMARK ASSOCIATION
INVITES YOU TO A LUNCHEON WITH
MICHAEL DOLAN
AUTHOR OF
The American Porch:
An Informal History of an Informal Place

HOUCHENS CENTER
APRIL 11, 2003 AT 12:00
$10 PER PERSON
RESERVATION REQUIRED
CALL 782-0037 OR 781-2873
(LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH NAME AND PHONE NUMBER.)
The Higher Road: The Life of Nelle Gloch Travelstead

by Nancy Marshall

It was in the flickering shadows that I first heard this song. My father, already at my birth in the twilight of his life, sang this melancholy tune to me as we took our nightly walks. Even today, approaching and always in a backward-looking frame of mind, he etched his love for this song in my heart and mind. Even today, in the quiet, flickering shadows of an evening, the song returns to me. It was a memorable time for me; a time I have never forgotten.

Along with the song, he would tell me of his early life and his adventures as a young student at Western's State Normal School where he first attended in 1923. It was there, in a music class from which he latercharted a new course. This song, and the teacher of that class and her influence, remained with him throughout his life. The teacher was Nelle Gloch Travelstead.

Nelle Blye Gloch was born in Louisville on May 27, 1888. In the earliest years of her life she traveled to California, New York, Michigan, and Oregon before the family permanently settled in Franklin, Kentucky. Nelle attended school at the age of nine and graduated from Potter College for Young Ladies when she was seventeen years old.

Her education continued at Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1908. In 1912, she received a B.A. degree in Education from Western Kentucky State Teachers College. In 1932, she also received a B.M. degree from New York University and the Hollis Dann School of Music. In 1938, she completed the requirements for a Master's degree from Columbia University.

She was the only daughter of a distinguished family. Her father, William Junius Gloch, was a noted politician, serving as a Democrat in the Kentucky House from 1906 to 1910 and as Speaker of the House in 1911. He died in 1917. Junius was Secretary of the Kentucky State Fair Commission. He also served as a member of the Board of Regents of Western State Normal School formed in 1911 to 1915. He was a distinguished looking man who garnered attention wherever he went. Professionally, he led the life of an itinerate salesman and inventor and held the patent for a new kind of kitchen cabinet.

Nelle Gloch remembered her father as a generous man who gave her anything she wanted, he was also a firm disciplinarian whose word was law. Her mother, Benoza Coleman Gloch, was a woman of presence both physically and in spirit. She was described as a "women of good sense and ability, [who] was not at all hesitant to speak. What was what." This is how we know Nelle.

Nelle Gloch grew up in the town of Franklin, Kentucky, a rural town that was proud of its Tennessee proximity, and southern associations, was the location of the red brick Gloch residence. Even today, Franklin is known for its quiet, stately residential neighborhoods and its small town population of less than 10,000 citizens. The Gloch Home was described by many, with the entire family attending school at the age of nine

It

And the flickering shadows, softly come and go,
Though the heart be weary, say the day long,
Still to us at twilight comes love's old sweet song.
of the Western’s Music Department, asked NGT in his thick German accent, “Nelle, you think you can do a good job at the music at the training school; would you like to try?” This was the beginning of a teaching career that spanned over forty years. The music classes were for prospective students seeking provisional and standard teaching certificates. NGT proved a very effective and challenging teacher, whose training, methods, and encouragement met the highest standards. She was a tough teacher who was firm in her class. The living conditions were terrible. There wasn’t a road in the town. Just up big, slick rock or thru’ creek bottoms, [I travel]. Oh, Honey! You just don’t know how to appreciate the luxuries you have until you’re in a place like this. I wouldn’t trade for here for six hundred a month and all expenses...

I left Hazard yesterday morning at 10:00 and got out of the saddle for the first time here at 6:00 P.M. That is how long it took me. I thought about you all on the way. Except this road was over the mountains and through the creeks. It was 21 miles. Came all the way by myself—and get to go back tomorrow. I dread it.

NGT suffered much in her duties as a field representative. Still, she continued in this service to rural schools for it was a fine recruitment tool for the fledging State Normal School and Teacher’s College. Western became by 1930-1931, “one of the largest teachers’ colleges in the country with an enrollment of 4,253.” Western’s leader Henry Hardin said that roads were eventually was ordered by her doctor to slow down.

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Building for the Future:
Rosenwald Schools in Warren County

By Donna Parker

Before school consolidation and bus transportation, most southern rural communities had a one-room schoolhouse in which to educate their youth. As local school boards built larger and more modern structures, the small schools were generally closed, sold and abandoned. In 2002 the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed a special group of these buildings—the Rosenwald Schools—on its list of the Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places.

The idea of constructing schools for African American children across the southern United States was spawned from a partnership between philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and African American educator Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee Institute. Rosenwald, inspired by Washington's theory of "self-help," visited Tuskegee in 1911. Washington believed that through education and black training blacks could achieve economic progress and eventually social equality. Rosenwald gave Washington $25,000 for the advancement of black education. Washington used $2,100 of the gift to build six rural schoolrooms in Alabama. Impressed with the project Rosenwald gave another gift of $30,000 for the construction of 100 additional schools. After Washington's death in 1915 Rosenwald continued the project establishing the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

Julius Rosenwald used the great wealth he had amassed from his association with Sears, Roebuck and Company to further his many philanthropic causes. The Julius Rosenwald Fund was incorporated in 1917 to "receive and disperse funds" for the "well-being of mankind." The primary focus of the Fund for its first ten years of existence was the School Building Program, a cooperative effort with southern states, local school districts and private citizens to build schoolhouses for African American children. Approximately one-third of its $31.75 million total expenditure supported this project.

Headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, the Fund provided seed money to communities that met certain stipulations and where the Fund felt the project would be successful. Community members had to show an interest in educating their youth and make matching contributions in the form of money, labor or materials. Enough land had to be provided for a playground and agricultural work if necessary. The school became the property of the local school board which was required to equip, furnish and maintain the schoolhouse. A major objective of the program was to encourage citizens and local governments to accept full responsibility in satisfying local needs.

The Rosenwald Fund provided floor plans, drawn by Tuskegee professors, to grant recipients. One-hundred-and-four of Kentucky's 155 Rosenwald Schools followed the one- or two-teacher model. Plans were also available for up to a 12-teacher facility. Designed to improve the education of children, these modern buildings were spacious and well-lighted with banks of windows providing adequate ventilation and lighting in the classrooms. The larger schools had auditoriums and shops with many of the smaller facilities housing community rooms. The Fund also provided plans for teacher's homes, workshops, and even a privy.

Between 1917 and 1920 Kentucky built 23 Rosenwald Schools in 25 counties. Logan County's Russellville School, a seven-teacher facility, was the second largest constructed during this period. In all, Kentucky received $4,000 for the construction of 115 schools, 2 teacher's homes, and 1 shop for 18,070 students and 402 teachers in 64 counties. African Americans contributed 16.64% of the total cost with whites giving $4,276, public funding 63.73%, and the Rosenwald Fund 15.96%.

In 1920, Warren County's children were educated in 99 schools, seventeen of which were African American. The seventeen were predominately frame structures faced with vertical boarding. At least three were clapboard and one log. The county's first Rosenwald School opened July 16, 1923 in the Cox Springs District. The two-teacher facility, located on lower Seventh Street outside the western edge of Bowling Green, had two classrooms measuring 22'x30', each with its own entrance and vestibule, two cloakrooms and a 12'x12' community room. Under the tutelage of local African American educator Reverend H.D. Carpenter, the former Cox Springs School, commonly known as the "Carpenter School," is thought to be the oldest African American school in the county. No doubt, Reverend Carpenter was a driving force behind the initiative to build what is now known as the Delfield School. Rosenwald trustee and Peabody Provost Emeritus Samuel L. Smith attended Warren County's August 1923 teacher's meeting. Smith directed the Fund's southern office in Nashville and acted as consultant to grant recipients in school planning and construction. Delfield cost $4,000 to construct with contributions as follows: African American $500, public funding $2,800; and Rosenwald $700.

Rosenwald funds aided in the construction of two additional schoolhouses in Warren County—one in Rockfield (1926-27) and one at Bristow (1928-29). Both schools were one-teacher facilities. Two plans were available for this size school but both had a 22'x30' classroom, two cloakrooms, and one community room. The Rockfield School is still standing and has been adapted into a residence. African Americans contributed 23% of the total cost of the $2,560 Rockfield school. Public monies totaled $2,100 with the Rosenwald grant adding $400. Contractor G.M. Tabor constructed the Bristow School in 1928 at a total cost of $1,750. African Americans contributed $100, public funding $1,450 and Rosenwald $200. Prudence Emery continued there as teacher.

The Rosenwald Fund also gave dollars to aid in bus transportation of African American schoolchildren. Although it is not known whether Warren County received any of this money, the school board did have transportation contracts with at least three individuals in 1928 to transport African American students to school. Lucy L. King received the contract for the route from Plum Springs to the "Bristow colored school," Westerfield Cole to the "Delfield colored school" and Hughley Heeter from Plaza to the "Richmond colored school." Many communities in the south celebrated "Rosenwald Day," a day instituted to "re-arouse community interest in schools, to clean up and beautify the school buildings and grounds, and to raise collections for needed repairs or additions to equipment." One Warren County school, most likely Delfield, reported celebrating Rosenwald Day in 1932. Two teachers, 105 students, and 25 citizens were present at the meeting.

Julius Rosenwald's philosophy of giving did not include the idea of a perpetual endowment. He felt that the current generation could not know or anticipate the needs of the future one. Therefore, when he established the Julius Rosenwald Fund, he made the stipulation that all monies be expended within 25 years of his death. Rosenwald also felt citizens, governments and other public agencies should accept full responsibility for community need. Julius Rosenwald died on January 6, 1932. The School Building Fund ended that same year; not for a lack of need, but because trustees deemed additional aid would delay southern states in assuming due responsibility. During the twenty years of the School Building Program, 5,357 public schools, shops and teacher's homes were built in 883 counties in 15 southern states at a total cost of $28,408,520 with $4,364,519 contributed by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. True to their charge, Trustees totally expended the Fund by 1948.

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March 2003
Advice from the Expert

At a recent meeting of the Connecticut Trust’s Annual Preservation Conference, Bob Yapp, host of the PBS television show How About Your House with Bob Yapp, had some sagacious advice about home maintenance. He told the audience that preservation techniques are not only better for historic buildings, but also cost less than more modern alternatives.

Yapp addressed three “big corporate ripoffs” in particular, encouraging the use of traditional systems instead. Vinyl siding, he said, is “the biggest scam ever perpetrated on the American public.” It creates an exterior vapor barrier, causing the structural system and clapboards underneath to rot. It doesn’t provide much insulation (in fact, he said, the FTC has ruled that vinyl manufacturers may not claim energy savings). And vinyl doesn’t really save money; it can be counted on to last only 16 to 20 years before it begins to fade, crack or break down from heat. Yapp claims that he can get a good paint job to last about 12 years (instructions below). Two paint jobs cost less than installing vinyl and won’t harm the building.

The second ripoff if replacement windows: “There’s a reason they call them replacement windows: you have to replace them over and over and over.” The seals in most new double-glazed windows break within 3.5 years; since 90 percent of insulating windows can’t be replaced, the entire sash has to be replaced. Much more efficient (and less expensive) way to deal with historic windows, according to Yapp, is to install weathertightening, replace sash cords with chains, and use wooden storm windows. New models have a permanent screen and removable glazed panels—much easier to handle than old-fashioned wooden storm.

Blown-in insulation is the third ripoff. You can’t be sure it gets into every pocket in the walls to provide complete coverage. Because there is no vapor barrier, water vapor from within the house condenses in the insulation, robbing it of much of its insulating value and causing rot and paint failure. It’s better to insulate the attic, where most heat loss occurs.

Yapp told how to make a paint job last:

- If there are more than three layers of paint on the house, remove it to bare wood. With a paint shader (a head that fits on a standard grinder) this procedure goes quickly and easily. A vacuum will allow lead paint to be captured safely. If the house is of great significance, do paint research to determine its color history.
- Clean and paint one side of the house at a time. The house needs time to dry after cleaning, but if you paint more than three or four days, atmospheric pollutants will settle on the walls and cause the paint to fail. Don’t use pressure washers; they drive moisture into the wood. Instead, clean by hand with TSP and a sponge; rinse with a hose. Test with a moisture meter and don’t paint if it detects more than 16 percent moisture.
- Prime with alkyd primer. Use a brush rather than a sprayer; brushing leads a thicker paint layer and works the paint into the wood.
- Caulk with acrylic latex siliconized caulk. Apply it wherever water flowing down the side of the house would get in but leave gaps underneath window frames and clapboards to allow the house to breathe.
- Apply two top coats of the best acrylic latex paint. Maintain the paint. If bubbles or peels, find the source of moisture and correct it, then scrape, prime and repaint.
- Yapp claimed that the preservation movement needs to work harder to bring the public to historic districts, but they could be convinced if preservationists would speak in terms of protecting property value and saving money.

From Connecticut Preservation News
(July/August 2000)

“Save America’s Treasures” Advances Historic Preservation

On September 25, 2002 the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities, National Park Service, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment of the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services jointly announced the awarding of $3.6 million in Save America’s Treasures (SAT) grants. Awards will help preserve and protect some of the most critically threatened historic places, archives, and artifacts in 36 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Selecting from 389 grant applications from federal agencies, state, local and tribal government, and nonprofit organizations, the SAT review panel representing preservation and conservation disciplines recommended 80 awards. Selection criteria required that each project be of national significance, demonstrate an urgent preservation need, have an educational or other public benefit, and demonstrate the likely availability of non-federal matching funds. A complete listing of “Save America’s Treasures” grant recipients and additional information on the SAT can be found at http://www.pcah.gov.

Greg Willis and Steve Scott show off their preservation work at the Vogler House at 1046 Elm Street. The house is now the home of the Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra’s music academy.

Calendars

APRIL

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Landmark Association Awards

One of the goals of the Landmark Association is to recognize important local historic preservation efforts, especially the rehabilitation or restoration of historic buildings. The Landmark Association is asking for input from members of the Association and the public. The following criteria are guidelines to help identify preservation projects. To nominate a project, please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and submit your application to the Landmark Association by April 14, 2003. Your application should be mailed to: Eileen Starr, Awards Committee-Landmark Association, P.O. Box 1812, Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812.

The Landmark Association offers several types of awards including the Landmark Building Awards, the Jean Thomason Historic Home Award, the Jane Morningstar Award of Merit and General House Awards. The Landmark Building Awards are given to firms, individuals or organizations who have completed significant restoration of public or commercial buildings. The Jean Thomason Historic Home Award is given annually for the outstanding restoration of a residence. General House Awards are given to homes where noticeable restoration work has recently occurred. The Jane Morningstar Award of Merit recognizes additional and substantial work to a previously restored commercial or public building.

The Landmark Association also recognizes people or organizations who have committed significant time and energy to historic preservation efforts over an extended period. This award, the Heritage Award, is given for substantial contributions to local historic preservation efforts. If you have any questions, need assistance completing the application, or have award suggestions, please contact Eileen Starr (843-6972 or evanstarr86@aol.com).

Building Awards are given to firms, Historic Building Award Criteria

Please answer the following questions and submit the information on a separate sheet to: Eileen Starr, Awards Committee, 134 Calvin Court, Bowling Green, KY 42104. The deadline for applications is April 14, 2003. The following questions pertain to the Landmark Building Awards, the Jean Thomason Historic Home Award, the Jane Morningstar Award of Merit and General House awards.

1. Name and address of structure.

2. Sensitive rehabilitation or restoration of structure. Was the rehabilitation or restoration done in a manner that maintained the building's important qualities? For example, were the original shapes or massing, roofline, and exterior cladding materials maintained? How does the project bring out the best in the building? Were important architectural features maintained?

3. Preservation Effort. What did the rehabilitation or restoration entail? What was the condition of the building before the project started? Was most of the work done on the exterior or interior? What did the work consist of?

4. Sensitive use of structure. Did the project involve altering the use of the building? If so, how?

5. Landscape and overall appearance of the structure. How did the project enhance the overall appearance of the building? Were additions sensitively placed on the lot or within the project area? Were historic landscape features maintained?

Heritage Award Criteria

Awards for Individual Contributions to Historic Preservation

Nominations for the Heritage Award should include general information about the individual. Specific details about the person's historic preservation-related activities should be listed such as preservation projects (with addresses of past projects) and/or preservation-related activities such as research, educational programs and advocacy efforts.

Landmark Report + Extra

Sumpter Challenge Met

In October a generous Landmark member presented a challenge grant to the Board of Directors of $2,000. This challenge had to be met dollar for dollar by December 31, 2002. With proceeds from our Christmas Tea, our October cemetery tour, the annual picnic as well as private donations, we were able to meet the match on December 7th. This money will be used initially to help re-print Irene Moss Sumpter's Our Heritage: An Album of Bowling Green Landmarks. The funds will eventually be deposited into the Irene Moss Sumpter Historic Preservation Endowment with proceeds from sale of the book. Our matching donors include:

Bill & Rosalynn Stamps
Ray & Laura Buddenfull
Max & Jean Thomason
Jonathan Jeffrey
John & Emily Perkins
Jerry E. Baker
Covella Biggers
Barbara Stewart
Dr. Alan B. Andersen
Dr. Kathy Rabal & Ken Ate
Tony & Jayne Pelakas
Mr. & Mrs. H.P. Clegger
Bart & Georganna Hagerman
Tim Evans & Eileen Starr
Robin Zeiger
Stephen & Elizabeth Horn
Margaret Saxton
Jay & Anne Love
Cheryl T. Mendenhall
Dr. Lynwood & Linda Mostell
Gary & Margaret Huff
David & Laura Harper Lee

Thank you for your generosity.

Sumpter Book Due in April

Please use the form below to pre-purchase copies of Irene Moss Sumpter's Our Heritage: An Album of Early Bowling Green Kentucky Landmarks. This book was first printed in 1978 and soon went out of print. Although Mrs. Sumpter's Warren County book was reprinted several times, the Bowling Green book has never been re-published. With special arrangements with the copyright owner, National City Bank, the Landmark Association will re-publish the book in April 2003. In order to raise the large amount of capital needed for this effort, we are pre-selling the books through March 15, 2003. The book features black and white photos of many of Bowling Green's most important structures. Unfortunately some of the buildings included are now gone. The new book will be hardback like the original, and have glossy enameled cover paper and Smythe sewing for strength. Pre-purchased books will be distributed in late March, the book will not be made available to the public until the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books on April 12th. The pre-publication cost is $25; after the book is published it will retail for $30. For those who would like to support the re-printing with $100, your name will be published on the inside flap of the dustcover and you will receive two complimentary copies of the book. The dust jacket's back cover will feature space for four donors who have made significant gifts, including Meyer Mortgage, Bill & Rosalynn Stamps, Barbara Stewart's Interiors, and Jonathan Jeffrey.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City/State: ____________________________
Zip Code: ____________________________
Number of Books: @ $25 each
I would like to support the re-printing of Our Heritage with a $______ gift

Christmas Tour Success

The Landmark Christmas Tour of Homes has now become a Bowling Green tradition. This year's tour was no different with eight wonderful historic properties decorated for our guests to view. We have many people to thank for the success of the tour, including our patron Jim Meyer of Meyer Mortgage for his continued sponsorship of this event. We thank our homeowners: John & Alta Carrmaciah, Jeff & Susaav Stevens, George & Kim Gleize, Mark Hood & Cathleen Munisteri, James & Floydine Adams, Greg Willis & Steve Scott, Rudoff & Rudoff Law Offices, and Lisa Lechman of Laurel House. Appreciation is extended to AOP of WKU and our members for staffing the different properties.
Landmark Report -- Extra

Our silent auction items were donated by: Dr. Jane Branham & Dr. Cam Collins, Jonathan Jeffrey, Bill & Rosalyn Stamps, and Jane & George Morris. Our beautiful tea was hosted by President Laura Southard and board member Jeannie Snodgrass; they also prepared most of the goodies. Thank you Ann Love and the Snodgrass ladies for helping with the tea. Also thanks to Ruth Ford and Betsy Horn for helping out. We also need to thank Alicia Carrmichael for writing such a nice story in the Daily News about the tour. Thank you Elaine Walker for generating publicity for the event. Special thanks to our part-time secretary, Sally Van de Water, for helping in so many different aspects. Finally we must thank our chairpersons for the tour: Eileen Starr & George Morris. This event proves that it takes a host of people to produce a well-run, beautiful event.

Reserve for the Speed Trip

We are already half-way full for our trip to the Speed Art Museum on Saturday, January 25, 2003. Besides visiting the Speed for the Millet to Matisse exhibit, we will tour the Conrad-Caldwell House and Glassworks. We will dine at Third Avenue Cafe. The fee for the trip is $40 for Landmark Association members and $45 for non-members. Only a check will hold a reservation. The fee includes all admissions, transportation and your lunch. Mail your reservation form to: Landmark, P.O. Box 1812, Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812.

Reservation Form for Speed Trip

Name: __________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _________________________________________________
Phone Number: _________________________________________________
E-Mail: _________________________________________________________
_____ people at $40 member rate
_____ people at $45 non-member rate
Total enclosed: $ __________________

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 _______________ E-mail ________________________________

Levels of Membership

Regular

[ ] Individual $15 [ ] Family $25 [ ] Active $100 [ ] Patron $250
[ ] Supporting $50 [ ] Sustaining $100 [ ] Donor $500 [ ] Benefactor $1,000

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

March 2003

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This rare photo of a company Christmas party was recently given to the Kentucky Library & Museum at WKU. It was the first such party held for Detrex in 1955.