The Landmark Association & Meyer Mortgage present a

Christmas Tour of Homes

Saturday, December 1, 2007 • 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. • $10 per person

David & Lucinda Anderson – 1325 College St.
Max & Barbara Vinson – 1328 Chestnut St.
Senad Veletanlic & Milan Petrovic – 1225 Chestnut St.
John & Nancy Rice – 731 East 10th Ave.
Duncan McKenzie & Pam Walker – 1024 High St.
Jeff & Margaret Stein – 936 Covington St.

Landmark Store & Silent Auction at 1267 State St.
**Foot Bridge Burned in 1915**

[Editor's note: Many local citizens have watched with curiosity the re-flooring of the old College Street Bridge. The following is an account from a local newspaper of the burning of the College Street foot bridge (the bridge in place prior to the current bridge) on February 12, 1915. It was constructed of wood and was a covered bridge. Although called a foot bridge, it did carry vehicular traffic. After the bridge was destroyed, traffic crossed the river on a ferry located where the current State Street Bridge and "Emery Dent Bridge" is currently located. The old College Street foot bridge had been constructed soon after the Civil War. A 1941 article states that "one of the piers of the old bridge still stands and serves as a foundation for the present span. When the present bridge was built, three tiers of rock and a concrete cap were added to the old pier and the superstructure rests upon it. The present bridge is three feet higher on this side of the river than the old one and five feet higher on the far side. It is considerably longer than the older structure and rests upon the concrete piers in addition to the old one of rock." The following in capital letters represent the extensive headline for this article. The perpetrators were never brought to justice.]

**COLLEGE STREET BRIDGE BURNED BY MOB, DENHARDT'S LIFE THREATENED. NOTE ON TELEPHONE POLE DEMANDS "JUSTICE" AND SAYS OTHER PROPERTY OF COUNTY WILL BE DESTROYED. OUTLAWS DECLARE THEY WILL BLOW UP EVERY BRIDGE, NORMAL SCHOOL AND WATERWORKS AND KILL COUNTY JUDGE IF FAIR TREATMENT IS NOT FORTHCOMING—VOLLEY FIRED INTO FLAMES BEFORE MARAUDERS DEPART. B.E. HAMLIN TOLD HE MUST RUN DOWN OUTLAWS DECLARE. CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS BEGIN CONCERTED EFFORT TO RUN DOWN PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES AND ARRESTS ARE EXPECTED HourLY—BLOOD HOUNDS Brought TO BOWLING GREEN FROM SMITHS GROVE, BUT ARE UNABLE TO TAME SCENT OF INCENDIARIES.**

The foot bridge, spanning the Barren River at College Street was burned at 1:30 o'clock Friday morning by an armed band of outlaws, who, after setting fire to the structure, fired a volley with revolvers and shotguns into the flames, left a note in which the life of County Judge H.H. Denhardt was threatened and made threats to blow up every bridge in the county and the city water works and burn the town.

The note, like the one left at Judge Denhardt's door, is written in a disguised hand—or rather printed—and it is plain that the writer is a man of ordinary intelligence, as his efforts to disguise the fact by poor spelling are evident to anyone.

The words on the note are printed, the letter being similar to those made by a child just learning to write.

The fire was discovered by Robert Wilson, 407 Second Street, who happened to look out of his window and saw the bridge in flames. He immediately notified the fire department and the police. The firemen made a record run to the ridge. The police and county officials responded as quickly as possible.

When the firemen arrived the entire floor and comb of the bridge were afire and the flames were spreading rapidly. A line of hose 1,300 feet long was extended from the nearest fire plug, at Fourth and College Streets, to the bridge and a stream of water soon was playing on the flames.

The efforts of the firemen, however, were of no avail as the fire had gained such headway, owing to the free sprinkling of coal oil on the seasoned timbers, that the structure burned like paper.

Assistant Fire Chief Walter Harvey and Firemen Barney Smith, DEMP Cullen and Porter Dodd narrowly escaped serious injury or possible death when the bridge fell into the river. They had taken a line of hose toward the center of the bridge when Chief Mullenberry, who went down the river some distance to view the fire from that side of the bridge, saw that the structure was about to collapse. He shouted a warning to Fireman Luellen Garrison, was at the city's end of the bridge, and Garrison relayed the warning to his endangered comrades.

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**Blast From The Past**

In the early-1960s, Bowling Green experienced a number of crime-related bombings. In October 1961, the city's Rotary Club issued a statement calling for "more vigorous enforcement" of laws here "by whatever means is required" and urged the public to help bring about an end to crime.

The Nashville Tennessean claimed that "the action by the club was the first test of its kind to come from an aroused citizenry anxious for a solution to a slaying and nine bombings and attempted bombings which have occurred here since October, 1960." The Rotary Club's resolution stated: "We abhor the many brazen bombings and bombing attempts which have resulted in the loss of many thousands of dollars of investments, but of even greater loss is the degradation of our community in the eyes of its citizens and the people of this state and nation." The resolution also declared that "the recent planned and willful murder of a man indicated for one of the bombings is now a demand upon all of us to bring about an end to crime.

The resolution further stated that "the Rotarian's resolution stated: "The foot bridge, spanning the Barren River at College Street was burned at 1:30 o'clock Friday morning by an armed band of outlaws, who, after setting fire to the structure, fired a volley with revolvers and shotguns into the flames, left a note in which the life of County Judge H.H. Denhardt was threatened and made threats to blow up every bridge in the county and the city water works and burn the town.

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They ran for their lives and had barely reached College Street before the bridge collapsed.

The section of the bridge next to the city was the first to go down. Without warning it toppled from a stone supporting pillar in the middle of the river and the abutment at College Street fell into the river. The part of the bridge supported by the second pier and the abutment of the opposite side burned several minutes longer and was almost consumed before it fell into the river. Not a vestige of the wooden work of the bridge was left.

A threatening note, which was found pinned to a telephone pole on College Street, a short distance from the bridge, was seen first by a boy named John Whitaker. He turned it over to Chief of Police Kukandall. It was written with a lead pencil on a piece of corrugated cardboard such as is used in marking cartons in whiskey is shipped.

Whitaker also found a vacant lot near College Street a gallon whiskey bottle or jug-shaped glass, which contained a small quantity of coal oil. This he also surrendered to the police. The outlaws are believed to have sprinkled the bridge with oil from this jug and then thrown it away.

Residents of the neighborhood were aroused shortly after 1:30 o'clock by a volley of shots. Looking from their windows they saw the skies for miles around brilliantly illuminated. The alarm spread rapidly and hundreds of persons soon were gathered at the fire.

Major Harry Stone of Smiths Grove, who owns a bowling Green by the state to take

The authority is of the opinion that there were 20 or more in the mob.

When the burning foot bridge fell from its pillars into Barren River Friday morning, and, still ablaze, floated down the stream like a vessel aflame until it fouled the bend out of sight of the hundreds of person lining the bank, one of the most historic structures in Warren County disappeared.

The bridge was built in 1865 by the State to take place of a similar structure built many years before which was burned during the Civil War, when Confederates, hotly pursued by Union soldiers, evacuated Bowling Green.

There was a group of court officials of the time the first bridge was built, however by the State of Kentucky when the Old State Highway from Louisville to [the] Tennessee line was constructed. The bridge [that] just burned also was built by the state to take place of the one burned by the soldiers.

It had been standing 50 years and was in a dilapidated condition. Some time ago officials realized that it would be necessary to replace the bridge of time until a new bridge would be necessary at this point.

It is estimated that it will cost in the neighborhood of $10,000 to rebuild the bridge. The pillars are, of course, strong enough to support the structure.

Judge Denhardt has asked the News to state that the bridge will be rebuilt without delay and without an increase of county taxation. He said that all of the bridges in the county, the one burned was in the worst state of repair and less valuable and would have been replaced by a new one in a few years.

It is estimated that it will require from three to four months to rebuild the bridge for the convenience of travelers. County prisoners were put to work Friday morning preparing landings for the ferry on both sides of the river. This service will be ready for the public in a day or two, Judge Denhardt said. The service will be free to everybody.

[Editor's note: An accompanying article gives some history about the bridge]
Rewards for Bowling Green & Warren County as Historic Preservation Board Receives Grant

by Eileen Starr

At brainstorming sessions for nonprofit organizations and city-county agencies the topic of grants is always coming up. "With the help of Robin, we can get them done," said Dennis Smith. And not all proposed grants are funded. Yet within the last five years, the City-County Historic Preservation Board (HPB) has been able to host a variety of activities thanks to grant funding.

The Landmark Association is a private non-profit advocate for preservation while their partner in historic preservation, the Historic Preservation Board (HPB), is a part of local government and administers the design review process for the preservation ordinance. In addition, the HPB provides the community with educational opportunities and preservation assistance.

Most recently, Mayor Elaine Walker traveled to Washington DC to receive a check for $62,000 from First Lady Laura Bush. This Preserve America grant will pay for designing and manufacturing interpretive signage for historic sites along our Greenways and walking and driving tour brochures. The grant application was written by Historic Preservation Planner Robin Zeigler. Robin is the staff person to the HPB at the City-County Planning Office. The City, the Greenways Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Downtown Redevelopment Authority and the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau are all partners in this heritage tourism effort.

Robin worked with Judge Executive Mike Buchanon as she prepared a grant for the restoration of the cupola on top of the ca. 1865 Warren County Courthouse. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the grantor and administers the design review process for preservation grants out there to fund historic construction projects, there is a quarter of a million dollars available for projects in Bowling Green. HPB's $1000 grant application was written by Historic Preservation Planner Robin Zeigler. Robin is the staff person to the HPB at the City-County Planning Office. The City, the Greenways Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Downtown Redevelopment Authority and the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau are all partners in this heritage tourism effort.

An other landmark grant consisted of $2500 given by the Contractor's Licensing Board to fund training for licensed contractors interested in becoming certified in the use of historic preservation techniques. A small amount of funds are still available this year.

Do you remember seeing Judge Executive Buchanon and Mayor Walker on the public access channel promoting the Sights and Sounds Project? After producing the Warren County Preserve series for several years, also on the public access channel, Robin realized that much of the photographic documentation of Bowling Green and Warren County had already been printed. In partnership with the Kentucky Library and Museum, the Landmark Association, and Insight Communications, the HPB collected many fresh images as well as home movies of Bowling Green and Warren County's past from the citizens of the area. One topic was John Kennedy's visit to Bowling Green and his speech outside City Hall. The HPB donated high-quality digital images to the Special Collections Department of the Kentucky Library at Western. The originals were returned to their owners along with a digital copy. The Kentucky Historical Society supported the project with $1000 and Landmark gave the project $500.

Landmark, the Kentucky Historical Society, Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Michael Trappasso provided assistance to update and reprint the pamphlet entitled Bowling Green Civil War Discovery Trail in 2004. Robin emphasizes that substantial volunteer labor assisted with the pamphlet as well as on-going activities such as the cemetery documentation project. The HPB partnered with the Warren County Cemetery Board for a grant from the Governor's Office for Local Development for $14,100 for cemetery preservation. The HPB has successfully written annual grants for Certified Local Government funds from the Kentucky Heritage Council to pay for survey and National Register of Historic Places projects.

That's quite an impressive list of grant funds that benefitted both the city and county, and it isn't a complete list of grants that have assisted the HPB. Remember the Windows on Preservation project with the great pieces of outdoor art that celebrated both local artists and historic preservation? Actually Landmark, the HPB and Andee Buell collaborated on that project. The activities undertaken with grant funding and the projects themselves are impressive additions to Bowling Green and Warren County's cultural resources. Next time you see an HPB board member, you might congratulate them on a check for $62,000 and their success in bringing grant funds to the area.

Local School Named for Veteran Educators

by Dennis Smith

Parker-Bennett was built and occupied in 1961, the same year College Street and Center Street Schools were closed and razed. College Street and Center Street Schools were built and in use by 1900. Therefore, this new expansion allowed students to be moved to newer facilities, which, in turn would make ready for other future expansion. The site for Parker-Bennett Elementary School was secured on April 15, 1960. The property contained eight to ten acres and was located at the old Jenkins property on Bloomfield Street. Its construction was similar to the original 1929 Bowing Building which was built two years earlier. Besides being a replacement school, the school was to serve the most densely populated area of Bowling Green.

The school's two name sakes were ladies who grew up in Bowling Green. Mrs. Ruby Parker, who was the current principal of Center Street School, and Mrs. Mickie Bennett, former principal of the Center Street School.

Mrs. Bennett was a native of Milan, Green, having graduated from St. Columbus' Academy. Western Kentucky State College. She began her career by teaching the sixth grade in the city school system. In total, she taught 31 years with 13 years spent as principal, following the resignation of Miss Mary Dishman. Although her students kept her busy, she found time to get involved in community activities. She served as state president for several organizations and eleven years as Regent of the Samuel Daviess chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a charter member and first president of the Delta Kappa Gamma Sigma, and International Honorary Organization for Women Educators, a board member of the Bowling Green-Warren County Welfare Center and a member of the State Street Methodist Church, where she taught the Golden Rule Bible Class for forty-two years.

Mrs. Parker was a native of Bowling Green, having been taught by Mackie Bennett, who had a lot of energy and was a great person. Mackie was real strong in reading, writing and arithmetic. She was quite a Bible Scholar. If you didn't get lessons completed, Mackie was 'going to get you.'

There were three women who remained close in their careers, according to Smith. "Mary Dishman, Ruby Parker and Mackie were all pretty much inseparable and wouldn't dare cut each other's throat. It was pretty much who had the most years (of who would get the next promotion). "Mackie," according to Smith, was special to her students because she instilled in them the desire for a college education. She believed if you were ever going to get anything a college education was necessary. She attempted to look at each student and what was applicable for the future. "Many students," including bill McCormick, who later became a medical doctor, "always gave Mackie due credit because it was Mackie who encouraged them to go further."

"Mackie never had any children so her main concern and all of her time was with her students." Smith commented. "Mrs. Mackie Bennett used to even get him in trouble. "She was my role model and that was pretty hard to explain to some of my other aunt." But she was a role model to everyone."

"My fondest memory of Mackie was at Christmas. She always had all of the family over and that was a pretty big task considering how large our family was," Smith commented. "That's probably the greatest memory because of her giving spirit."
The other half of the parker-bennett namesake belonged to Mrs. Ruby Smith Parker, according to her son, Jerry Parker, the family wasn’t originally from Kentucky. “We moved to Bowling Green in 1921,” he said. “We lived in western Tennessee but my grandfather got my father a job with the railroad company. We were then transferred to Bowling Green.”

Her formal educational training began with academic work at Memphis State College then transferring to Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee, where she completed her Bachelor’s degree. She also received a Master of Arts degree at Western Kentucky University. She was a life member of the Kentucky PTA. She was active in her community, organizing the first Junior Red Cross unit in Warren County, serving as a trustee of Sunrise T.B. Hospital and secretary for the War Memorial Boys Club in Bowling Green for many years. Additionally, she was a Sunday School department superintendent at State Street Methodist Church for 36 years. She also served as an officer in Alturso, B.P.W., Eastern Star, American Legion Auxiliary, and Wasps of World War I. She was recognized in 1959 as the Bowling Green Civitan Club’s Distinguished Citizen of the Year and received the Optimist club Appreciation Award in 1961. At the presentation ceremony with the Civitan club, she said, “I have tried to be with my boys and girls—I love everyone of them—and I have tried to do what I could for Bowling Green, but I don’t think I deserve it (this award).” She ended her comments by saying, “I thought we were having dinner to celebrate (Mrs. Cecil) May Petedy’s birthday.” The paper noted, “It was one time a group of men saw a woman speakless.”

Parker devoted 37 years to teaching and to the children of Bowling Green. She joined the city school system in 1923 as a third grade teacher at Center Street School. She kept this position until she became principal of the Center Street School in 1950 until it closed in 1961. She then became the principal of parker-Bennett for one year before she retired in 1962. “I went through College High because she didn’t want me to be under her,” explained Mrs. Parker’s son.

Her concern wasn’t just in the classroom. “I can recall on numerous occasions when my mother would find out a child hadn’t eaten. She would give the child her meal that was sent from the cafeteria. Many times mom would find out a child needed some type of clothing, a jacket, pants or whatever,” parker continued. “She would call the manager down at Shürin’s or other department stores for help.” Mr. Alderson Clark, who served with Mrs. Parker at Parker-Bennett, recalls his first interview with her and reiterated the same partnership feeling between the business community and her school. “Anytime you get into trouble and need some extra money,” he recalls her saying, “go up Clay Street to some of the business owners and ask for some help. Those folks are aware of what I’m trying to accomplish and are very gracious and caring and will provide you with some help.” In addition, she advised Clark, “Be prepared. You may be giving baths to youngsters who haven’t had a bath or contacting a dentist because a child has teeth problems.” She concluded by telling Clark, “The principal here has to do a lot of things outside of the classroom but we need to take care of those concerns also.”
Sights & Sounds Exhibit

In late-spring 2008 the Bowling Green Historic Preservation Board, Landmark Association, the Kentucky Library & Museum, and the Kentucky Historical Society will sponsor an exhibit at the Kentucky Library & Museum using photographs and video footage collected as part of the “Sights & Sounds of Warren County” project. For the past two years, nearly 200 photographs and quite a few feet of video footage was collected. Shown here are a few examples of the donated photographs.

John F. Kennedy speaking on the steps of City Hall in Bowling Green. Donated by Paul Durbin.

The DeBusk Presbyterian Mission, many times referred to as the Stone Church. Donated by Marty Deputy.

Photo of children perhaps after they participated in a Red Cross parade or activity. Donated by Rosalyn Stamps.


Preparing the feed at the Borders farm. Donated by James R Bronson.

Robert Evans Morningstar sporting his skating medals. Donated by Cora Jane Spiller.

Hunt’s Oyster Bar on Main Street. Donated by Jean Lockhart.

Interior of Hunt’s Oyster Bar on Main Street. Donated by Jean Lockhart.

Riverside High School. Donated by Ines Murphy.

Annual Meeting Scrapbook

Michael and Sharon Barron accept the Historic Preservation Board Award for their work on the Masier Building (Morris Jewelry) at 408 East Main. The Barrons perfectly reconstructed the projecting sign from a collection of old photographs and postcards. The sign was made by Neon Campus, Inc.

B.C. Wimpee accepted the Steel Wood Award for the work being done at 525 East 12th Avenue. He has removed siding from the house and has begun painting it sympathetic to this 19th century Queen Anne house.

John Carmichael (left) presented Landmark’s highest honor, the Heritage Award, to Michael Minter for his work with the College Hill Neighborhood Association; his service to the Landmark Association, particularly his recent work on our website; and his interest in preservation issues across the community.

Lucinda and David Anderson accepted a Landmark General House Award for their work on the Dr. C.E. Francis House at 1325 College Street. This beautiful Arts & Crafts bungalow has been lovingly preserved and added to by the Andersons. The distinctive clipped roof and dormer along with the overhanging exposed eaves make their bungalow one of the most distinctive in Bowling Green.
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 -----------------------------

[ ] Foundation $25 [ ] Doric Order $50 [ ] Corinthian Order $250

[ ] Ionic Order $100 [ ] Cornice $1,000

[ ] Entablature $500

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