The Landmark Association invites you to its

Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 9, 2012
at Keystone Farm
owned by the Perkins Family
Touring of the home at 4:30 p.m.
Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Short program and
then hike/ride to the Keystone Quarry

LANDMARK FURNISHES CHICKEN,
DRINKS AND PAPER GOODS,
YOU BRING SUMMER SALADS,
VEGETABLE DISHES AND DESSERTS.

HEAD WEST ON 68-80 TOWARD RUSSELLVILLE; ONCE PAST THE NATCHER PARKWAY BE WATCHING ON THE RIGHT FOR BLUE LEVEL ROAD (HWY. 432), TURN RIGHT, GO APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES AND TURN LEFT ON L.C. CARR ROAD, FOLLOW CARR TO THE GATE AT THE END OF THE ROAD. YOU'RE THERE! SIGN WILL BE POSTED.

We congratulate our 2012 Award Winners

**Heritage Award**
Regina Newell

**Jane Morningstar Award of Merit**
Duncan Hines House (ca 1920)
902 Elm Street
Dr. Bill & Susan Scott

**Jean Thomason Historic Home Award**
Carl Herman House (ca 1896)
628 East Main Avenue
Jeff & Susan Stevens

**General House Awards**
1250 Park Street (ca 1890)
Paul & Joan Burrell

1259 Park Street (ca 1919)
Michelle Dillaha

**Cultural Landscape Award**
Ennis Farm – Stone Wall on Glen Lily Road
Jeffrey Adams & Tammy Willis
The Landmark Association of Bowling Green-Warren County
A non-profit organization community advocate for preservation, protection and maintenance of architectural, cultural and archaeological resources in Bowling Green and Warren County.
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Members Enjoy New Harmony Ramble This Spring

ABOVE: Members outside the shrub labyrinth. Photos by Jonathan Jeffrey.

RIGHT: Laura Lee examines the Roofless Church designed by Philip Johnson.

LEFT: A small portion of the Owen House, built in 1830 with later additions.


FALL RAMBLE PLANNED FOR LATE-OCTOBER TO STEARNS, KENTUCKY TO TAKE A RIDE ON THE BIG SOUTH FORK SCENIC RAILWAY. MORE DETAILS IN SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER.

Calendar

- September 9 Annual Picnic
- Late-October Ramble to Stearns, Kentucky
- This Fall Architectural tour of WKU
- November 15 Deadline to complete Landmark grant work
- December 1 Christmas Tour of Homes

Dorothy Grider: Her Life in Pictures

Sue Lynn Stone McDaniel & Sandra Staebell

Dorothy Grider with her painting of Old Pete. Unless otherwise noted all photos for this article courtesy of the Special Collections Library, WKU.

Born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, to Rufus and Patricia (Fenwick) Grider, Dorothy Grider demonstrated an aptitude for art at an early age. Dorothy recalled that by age five she would lay on their front porch, drawing the comics from the Park City Daily News. Self-described as “determined about everything,” this promising artist took advantage of her opportunities. While completing her education in the Bowling Green city schools (class of 1933), she registered for art classes taught by Mildred Card Hawkins and Reed Potter and twice won state poster contests sponsored by the Kentucky Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs. Her submission in the 1930 competition won second place on the national level. Beginning at the age of 14, Grider spent her summers studying in the Madison Avenue penthouse of the Phoenix Art Institute of New York, whose faculty included Norman Rockwell and Franklin Booth.

Grider continued her artistic education while attending Western Kentucky State Teachers College. During her freshman year, she studied under Ivan Wilson and joined the Phonetic Club. In 1939 Dorothy gave public school teaching a try by accepting a position in the mountains near Clinton, Tennessee. There a third grader told her she was “too small to be a teacher.” Saving her money that school year, she returned to New York City. For the next two years, the U.S. Playing Card Company of Cincinnati, Ohio paid her a weekly salary of $35 to illustrate playing cards. Outstanding among her freelance assignments for this period is the October 1940 cover of American Girl, a Girl Scout publication. In 2009 Grider wrote: “That is what I wanted to do, magazine illustrations, but the camera came into vogue and photos took over.”

Trading greeting cards for playing cards, Dorothy next accepted employment with Norcross Greeting Card Company. From stylized Christmas cards depicting Santa Clauses, cowboys, and altar boys to other occasion cards featuring cocker spaniels, a favored motif, Dorothy’s talent brought smiles to recipients across America. When her balletina design caught the eye of the Ballet Russe, it became their official Christmas card. During World War II, Dorothy created several cards in the Norcross series for American servicemen. An article in the December 1942 issue of Charm magazine recommended them as a first “maneuver” for securing a boyfriend’s attention and heart. Likely inspired by a song popularized earlier that year by Glenn Miller and the Andrews Sisters, one of Grider’s cards featured an attractive brunette under an apple motif, “I won’t sit under the apple tree with anyone else but you.” Intended to be displayed, the card provided a small sheet of notepaper on which to write confidential messages that would be transported inside the card with only the words “To My Boy Friend In The Service” visible from the slot that held the notepaper. Friends in Bowling Green read all about

(continued on page 4)
it in the “What D’Ya Know by Linda Listens” column of the Park City Daily News.

Dorothy’s big break occurred when a Norcross co-worker showed illustrations of her whimsical pink and blue dogs to an agent for children’s book illustrators. Within the first year of utilizing an agent’s services, Dorothy illustrated her first book, The Little Rabbit Who Wanted Red Wings (1945). Contracts with We Love Grandpa (1956) are interested to learn that her agent for children’s book illustrators. Within the first year of enjoying doing the books as much as we have enjoyed having cousin, John Grider of Bowling Green, served as her model Grider quickly became known for the accuracy of her work and of her editors. After sending only payment for her illustrations

An illustration from Dorothy’s book The Little Majorette. Notice the W on the flag, referencing back to Dorothy’s days as a student at WKU.

"When you strip away the rhetoric, preservation is simply having the good sense to hold on to things that are well designed, that link us with our past in a meaningful way, and that have plenty of good use left in them."

— Richard Moe, Former executive director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation
An Eclectic Array of Women and Books

By Joan E. Nohm

In the fall of 1939, Miss Edna Bothe, the head of Western Kentucky State College's Department of Library Sciences, wanted to form a new literary club in Bowling Green "to promote the mutual enjoyment and mental development that result from the reading and discussion of good books." Eight other women agreed, and thus the Eclectic Book Club was founded. Mrs. Forrest Hill suggested the name, which, according to the club records, "has the distinction of having been more consistently misspelled in the local press than any other club name in the history of Bowling Green." Knowledge of the Eclectic Book Club comes from the minutes faithfully recorded by a variety of secretaries from 1955 until the end of the club. Most of these women wrote pragmatically, recording only the basic facts of the meetings. Yet from these records, we can learn the rhythm of the club's year-long calendar.

The club year would begin with a fall business meeting to elect officers and decide on the topic of study for the coming year. A nominating committee presented a slate of officers—president, vice president, and secretary—treauser—who were always elected unanimously. Sometimes, the new officers "gave nice acceptance speeches recognizing the honor which had been bestowed on them." The president then assigned members to the standing committees: Program, Books, Christmas party, and Picnic. Meetings were always held on the first Thursday of every month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the early years and then at 2:00 p.m. in the later years. The women met at the home of one member who served as hostess, and they enjoyed a program given by another member. Roll call was taken, modest dues collected, and fines of $.25 assessed to anyone who had not returned her book for the book exchange. Much planning and excitement went into preparing for the annual Christmas party and summer picnic. For many years, these energetic and devoted club members held meetings every month of the year.

While some secretaries recorded only the facts, others added a bit of their personalities. Katherine Claypool, for example, often wrote with a touch of humor. Writing about the 1955 Christmas party at Emily Glazier's home, she wrote that "after dinner and a gossip session, we adjourned, leaving Emily with the dishes to wash and a just-returned husband." At another meeting, Katherine wrote, "Having no business, we made ourselves a little by having a contest of wits over the change of our regular day of meeting." The conversation may have tried her patience, for she ended her report by claiming to be "tired of being respectful. Disrespectfully Submitted, Katherine Claypool." A few months later, she reported that two members were rude and left before lovely refreshments were served. That was a shame because "the whipped cream wouldn't have hurt their figures. Respectfully Submitted, Katherine Claypool.

The club's popular summer picnic was held at Mrs. Claypool's home on Nashville Road for many years. One year, she was the secretary at that time and reported a rather stressful preparation: "After putting paper towels fastened down with thumb tacks all over the picnic table, all of a sudden the wind came up, the rain came down, and I got wet running for the tea and card tables. I then put my card tables in the dining room for nine members and three guests. A wonderful meal was served. Everyone outfitted themselves with cooking, especially Mrs. Daniel's beans... After stuffing ourselves, a business meeting followed... Books were exchanged with about four books missing. A discussion of Love Story with much talk of crying followed.

Some humor was similarly used by Elizabeth Buckberry, who reported on her own 1967 program about Thomas Jefferson's skills as a gourmet and a host. She wrote that her own refreshments that day were delicious but that she did not use Jefferson's recipes. Concluding a year studying islands, the secretary for the June 1981 meeting wrote, "For a group of Kentucky women studying islands in peak summertime heat, there could be a no more appropriate subject than Iceland. It was Fannie who was smart to think of that for her June paper, for more interesting than anything else a new cooling system devised to beat the heat."

Addie Hochstrasser was the secretary who employed the most literary writing style in her minutes, which must have pleased the members, for she was elected secretary for many years. Her description of the fall 1976 pot luck meeting reveals the strong traditions that had developed over the years as well as members' growing affection for each other. "The tradition of Southern cooking and Southern hospitality become a reality for the members of the Eclectic Book Club when once each year they combine the pleasures of reading and eating. The promise of Mary Nell's apple pie and Catherine's hospitality has long been a guarantee of 100% attendance. An Eclectic pot luck is never a "more pot luck," but rather it is a veritable feast, a sumptuous banquet and a proper setting for launching a new book-reading season with the distribution of yearbooks listing programs for the forthcoming year, and the newly-purchased, carefully selected books which are contributed by each member... Twice the length of a regular meeting wasn't long enough for visiting, eating, planning, and enjoying. This pleasant evening was adjourned with words of gratitude to the hostess and thought of hours of good reading in brand new books." Mrs. Hochstrasser occasionally used historical or literary allusions in her minutes. Describing the bountiful table and lovely decorations at a Christmas party, she wrote, "Surely no Saxon meal hall was more festive." Reporting that a meeting had to be canceled because of the weather, she wrote, "If the snows of winter 1978 were actually holding a conspiracy, they rivaled the old Roman Catiline himself, for they scoured another victory in March." Appreciating Romaine English's program on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, she wrote, "This paper was a delightful trip in memory back to our best days of childhood when some devoted teacher read, 'Listen my children and you shall hear/Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere.' The door of poetry was then opened for us."

As the years unfolded in the life of the Eclectic Book Club, secretaries began including more information about the
personal lives of members. We learn about Jane Stevenson's wedding, the birth of Erma Hunt's granddaughter, and various trips, both domestic and abroad. We also hear of membership numbers. One January, Margaret Minton joined the club, prompting the secretary to write, "Welcoming a new club member is a joyous occasion, and the members were pleased to speak words of welcome." Sadly, there were also reports of resignations, illnesses, and deaths. The entries about Margaret Orman serve as a particularly poignant example of how members cherished each other. Margaret was a longtime active member, hosting club meetings at her home on Nutwood Avenue and presenting many interesting programs, such as biographies of Fritz Kreisler (during the year studying Famous Musicians), Barbara Jordan (Women in Politics), and Queen Elizabeth I (Women Rulers). However, in March 1980, Mrs. Orman needed surgery at the City County hospital. "The new hospital, Bowling Green Medical Health Center, will be opened Saturday, March 8. Margaret will be one of the patients who will be moved from the old to the new facility. A get well card was signed by the club members and mailed to the new hospital. "Subsequent minutes record further surgery and a stay in a nursing home. She was able to attend some meetings but not the December Christmas party, so members signed a card and took "a generous helping of our delicious food" to her nursing home. The next spring, members volunteered to make a "weekly visit to take supplementary snack food to Margaret Orman, who is a wheelchair patient. Margaret is a long time member. We are happy to maintain her membership." Mrs. Orman was able to eventually return home, but passed away in November of 1991. The club purchased flowers for the funeral and observed a moment of silent prayer for their dear friend at their next meeting.

Whether the secretaries wrote concisely or with a flourish, they all shared one thing in common—the dutiful reporting of club funds every month. Because annual dues were only $1.00 or $2.00, and because membership was under fifteen, they were not handling large amounts of money. Yet every month, the secretary-treasurer accounted for every penny, including each $.25 fine for failing to return a book for the book exchange and an anonymous contribution of $.35 once in 1968. Expenditures were generally for flowers for illness or funerals of members, with receipts from Deemer's taped or glued into the minutes book. The club also bought a wedding gift and a baby gift. When the balance reached over $50 in May of 1979, the secretary-treasurer proudly made a bank deposit and even recorded the exact savings account number. However, a few years later, the bank announced that there would be a service charge of $4.00 a month. "It was quickly decided to withdraw our club money in the cause of solvency. Fannie volunteered to take over the care of our money. Money in socks and teapots is a strong point for this situation." In the 1980s, the club voted to donate a book to local elementary school libraries, beginning with T. C. Cherry, L. C. Curry, and Debrah-McGinley.

The Eclectic Book Club indeed centered its life on books. As members eagerly gathered in fall, Mrs. Hochstrasser wrote, "September has always meant 'back to the books' for our generation. We are happy to meet, after a summer vacation, our friends, both those in real life and in books. This is the September pattern of our lifetime. After all, a book club is a continuation of school." Every year, the Program Committee compiled for each member a small yearbook, including essential information such as members' names and addresses, committee assignments, dates for presenting and hosting, and the year's themes. A great deal of research using nonfiction books was required to present programs on their eclectic topics: Civil War and the South, Race Horses in Kentucky, Newly Independent Countries, Religions of the World, Other Cultures, Wives of the Presidents, Women in Medicine, National Parks, Kentucky Writers, and many others.

Also included in the yearbook was a curious page that listed members' names with a book title and then rows and columns of numbers. Every year, each member purchased a book, preferably fiction, which was to be shared with others. The book-number chart presents the cleaver, structured plan for doing so. A member's book would be read by another member in January, for example. Then that book would be returned and given to the next member in February. The words "Books were exchanged" were written in the minutes by nearly every secretary for every month for every existence of the club. Thus, each year, those avid readers had twelve additional books to read and talk about with each other. In the minutes for October 4, 1979 when the club celebrated its 40th anniversary, the secretary wrote, "Books for the 1980 season were exchanged. The titles were different, but the spirit and interest are alive and well." In 2012, Wilma Smith still remembers how much the women looked forward to reading the next book on the list.

As the years passed, several signs foreshadowed the decline of the Eclectic Book Club. More deaths and resignations were mentioned in the minutes, and attendance was lower at the monthly meetings. The age of the members was evident in a request that books chosen for the book exchange not be too small print. Sometimes meetings were held in the library rather than in a home, and guest speakers filled in for members no longer able to prepare a program. Audrey Thomas, the last secretary, wrote on September 2, 2004, "Minutes were read and approved. There was...a discussion on what the options are for our club due to our low attendance and members who are unable to participate. Our membership book will be put on 'hold' until we discuss this situation at our October meeting." There was no record of a meeting in October, and so, after 65 years, the last page was turned for the Eclectic Book Club.

Years later, a black portfolio was located by Audrey's husband; it contained the last minutes books, several yearbooks, some correspondence, and exactly $6.60. The portfolio was delivered to Wilma Smith, one of the last members of the club, who graciously donated a check for that amount and all the materials to the Kentucky Library and Museum, which would certainly have pleased the meticulous record keepers of the past. In the collection was a note written in 1993 by Ruby Daniel, nearly ninety years old. She wrote, "I could never have been with a group of ladies that I would have enjoyed more...Together we've laughed, together we've cried. Each one of you will always hold a special place in my heart. I'll think of you individually and collectively with great admiration." Nineteen years later, Wilma Smith agrees, saying that the club was a "very congenial group of women, very sweet ladies." She also wistfully recalls how interesting it was to get together to talk about books. Considering the pleasure the women had in reading so many fiction and nonfiction books over the years, future generations will agree that the club achieved its purpose of "mutual enjoyment and mental development that result from the reading and discussion of good books."
Harrowing Alvaton Event, 1944

(Three persons were killed and one critically injured at 4:00 yesterday afternoon when an automobile and a loaded school bus collided on the old Scottsville Road a mile from the Alvaton School. The dead were listed as Marshall Wayne Cosby, 10, a passenger on the school bus; Lloyd Byers, 34, and his father, Abner Byers, both of whom reside near Boyce, occupants of the car. The Cosby boy, pupil at Alvaton School, was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Rumer Cosby, who reside about three miles from Alvaton.)

Critically injured in the crash was another Alvaton school pupil, Jane Pearson, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Pearson, Alvaton. Three of the five other occupants of the school bus, including the driver, Mrs. Jouriet Smith, admitted to the City hospital here for treatment, were dismissed last night and this morning. Remaining at the hospital was Josephine Walker, 18-year-old Alvaton High senior, whose left ear was practically severed. Her condition was described at the hospital today as "fair." Treated at the hospital were Frances Cosby, 9, sister of the dead boy, head laceration, dismissed last night; Roy Cosby, 7, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Cosby and cousin of the dead boy, face lacerations, dismissed this morning. Mrs. Smith, treated for face lacerations was dismissed last night. The injured were brought to the hospital by a local ambulance and Dan Hays, principal of the Alvaton School. Others in the school bus escaped injury except for minor scratches and bruises.

Warren County Coroner Chester Basham and State Highway Patrolman Hugh B. Boyd investigated the collision. They said Byers and his father, headed toward Alvaton, apparently were en route to their homes near Boyce from Bowling Green and the bus was within sight of the school, headed toward Bowling Green, when they crashed on a hilltop. The bus rolled over once, before coming to rest upright on a roadside embankment. The passenger car, a 1939 Oldsmobile, driven by Lloyd Byers, was demolished. Crushed bodies of the two men were extracted from the front seat after a part of the wreckage was torn away.

Roemer Lee Mossey, farmer who was plowing in a roadside field near the scene of the crash, said he had left his team and was walking across the field within a few hundred feet of the road when the accident occurred. He said he had noticed the vehicles approaching in opposite directions before he heard the crash and rushed to the scene. "The children were screaming, and blood was everywhere," Mossey told the investigating officers. "I saw the dead boy on the ground near the bus. The other children were scrambling from the bus." Mossey caught the first passing car and hurried to Alvaton this morning. Mrs. Smith, treated for face lacerations, dismissed last night; Ray Cosby, 7, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Cosby and cousin of the dead boy, face lacerations, dismissed this morning. Mrs. Smith, treated for face lacerations was dismissed last night. The injured were brought to the hospital by a local ambulance and Dan Hays, principal of the Alvaton School. Others in the school bus escaped injury except for minor scratches and bruises.

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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.

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