Sold Out Crowd for “Main Street Memories” Program

On August 24, sixty-five people gathered in our Southerland Theater for an evening of nostalgia and fun. They had purchased tickets at $20, bringing in $1,300! Besides the 65 guests, 16 people sat ready to participate in the program.

The program was held to open the new exhibit “Down on Main” which was created in a partnership between Southside High School EAST project and the museum. Twyla Wright thanked the students and their advisor.

Gene Crawford welcomed people at the door. Ned Metcalf served as the Master of Ceremonies with his usual low-key charm. Caleb Hendon, accompanied by Mandi Curtwright, sang “Old Man River,” and then Mandi shared a brief summary of how Main Street Batesville has changed over the years.

Neva “Cookie” Ball, a spry lady in her 90s, amazed us with her memories of the 1940s. Fred Wann told about being a newspaper boy in the 1950s and even folded a newspaper to show he still remembered how! Danny Dozier had the crowd in stitches as he played and sang “Baby O” and then Butch Ketz shared his young days at the Sunday afternoon movies and how he, Doug Brodie, and others started the Platter Inn.

Luke Stroud had the audience clapping as he out-performed Jerry Lee Lewis at the piano with “Great Balls of Fire.” Lucy Yeager sang and told about her teen years on Main Street, followed by Nelson Barnett telling about dragging Main, the Owl Show and Christmas decorations. Jon Healey sang “Woman” while playing his guitar, followed by Father Stephen Gadberry playing “When They Drove Old Dixie Down” on his harmonica. Cindy Barber and Gene Crawford shared their memories of cruising Main Street as teenagers in the 1980s. Suzanne Magouyk told of growing up on Main Street and ended by saying she was still “a 100% Main Street Girl!”

Sonya Rucker, accompanied by Mandi, brought the program to a close with her song “Down Town.”

Ned invited all to enjoy wine and hors d’oeuvres provided by Main Street merchants Bigs, Unique Nosh, Sweetie Cakes and Elizabeth’s in the museum library. Julia Nail, Betty Barnett and Twyla Wright worked setting up the tables.

Historic Christmas Cards

Our gift shop has new Christmas cards featuring historic photos of Batesville’s Main Street covered in snow! These beautiful cards are only available through our gift shop and are reasonably priced at $2 each including envelope. A great vessel to hold a gift membership!
Curator of Exhibits
Twyla Wright

Updated Exhibits~

Our former exhibit, titled “The People’s Court” in the J.K. Southerland Gallery, has undergone a fresh change. Three new wall panels will greet the visitor there.

The exhibit title now reads “Establishing Law, Order & Justice.”

The left panel gives the history of how Law was established in the new territory of Arkansas. It includes how voting rights changed over the decades and how local law was instituted.

Order-The middle new panel shows how legal records have been kept from the earliest times until the present. It also describes how precious public records have been lost in five of our region’s counties. Beneath is a pictorial history of our 12 county’s courthouses.

The right section of the exhibit is now titled “Justice.” Its photos and text explain legal methods over the years of protecting rights and punishing wrongs as well as illegal lynchings that took place.
Our museum has just been notified that our application to host another of that institution’s traveling exhibits has been accepted. It is titled “Voices and Votes: Democracy in America.” We will host it from September 12 through October 24 in 2020.

Our schools will have an extraordinary opportunity to bring their students to learn and interact with this exhibit! We will be working to create a required companion exhibit showing local and regional stories about how democracy played out here.

Collections Corner

Alan Bufford

Very often we are asked what factors enter into our curators’ decisions regarding whether to accept items or objects for accession into the Old Independence Regional Museum’s archives.

Let me step you through a curator’s typical thought process.

The first question we ask ourselves is “how does the item/object offered fit into the twelve county region we serve?” Our scope is to preserve artifacts directly from or representative of our north central Arkansas service area. For example a beautiful and well preserved woolen coverlet hand carded then loomed by an Independence County ancestor certainly demands thorough consideration by our collections curators. However, a similarly beautifully crafted coverlet purchased in a New England antique shop and without any local historical connection would not be an appropriate addition to our holdings.

If the item/object meets the locality test, next we ask ourselves “what story does this artifact have to tell?” We love items with a story attached. Obviously a diary or journal kept by a local individual facing the economic and family struggles of the Great Depression literally tells its story without any added third party dialogue. At the same time, that piece of kitchen crockery with a chip and a crack might tell the tale of survival during the Guion F4 tornado of April 10, 1929.

The story told by an item/object is of such extraordinary importance. We want to capture that story to preserve right alongside the artifact itself.

We love photographs. As the famous marketing phrase says, a picture is worth a thousand words. But only when we can identify the person(s) or locale pictured! Our archives hold thousands of pictures. Please share your historical photos with us!

To be honest, the curator must also take into consideration our storage space constraints. All OIRM artifacts are maintained and stored within the four walls of our 1936 WPA national guard armory building. We do not have any off site storage. Thus any potential donations of sizable artifacts are subject to our ability to house them in a safe and climate controlled environment.

Without question, we appreciate the opportunity to take a look at items you might consider donating. Without your generosity we would not have a museum!
Summer Day Camp

OIRM hosted another exciting Day Camp this past summer, celebrating the bicentennial of Arkansas Territory. Most of our campers were returning campers who look forward all year to this event! Activities included shucking corn, baling hay, potato sack races, candle making, and weaving. Campers also learned the importance of animal pelts and their many uses. Programming included stories, snacks, and hands-on activities.

Rendezvous

The Early Arkansaw Reenactors Association partnered with OIRM to host an early 1800’s camp as part of Batesville’s White River Water Carnival in September. School groups were invited to tour the camp and participate in skills and activities on Friday, then the camp was open to the public on Saturday and Sunday.

Fall Homeschool Day

OIRM celebrated Native Americans in Arkansas for Fall Homeschool Day. Students studied the Mississippian culture and practiced making coil pots using clay. They also studied the Quapaw, Caddo, and Osage cultures followed by Shawnee and Cherokee. Participants learned how important trade was in this area, and enjoyed making their own ring and pin games, grinding corn, and tasting native foods.

Fall Family Day

Families enjoyed crafts, activities, and exploring OIRM’s exhibits during the annual Fall Family Day in October. The weather was beautiful and a good crowd came to enjoy the day. One of the favorite activities for adults and children alike was washing clothes by hand using a washboard and wringer then hanging them to dry!
Docents are always needed! We want to stay relevant to our community but we need your help. We had several Presidential Service Awards winners (noted in bold) but I would like each one of you to get an award. Plan to commit 100 hours this year. If you are not a volunteer come see us! The names you see to the right are also members, some board members and some day sponsors. Some give their professional skills such as Steve Massey who keeps our computers running. We absolutely could not function with YOU!

President - Alan Bufford
Vice President - Amelia Bowman
Secretary - Bruce Johnston
Treasurer - Kenny Gerhardt
Trustee - Sonya Rucker
Trustee - Glenda Martin
Trustee - Kathy Clements

Board President
Sandy West

As we draw near to the close of another year, I am writing this with mixed emotions. My time on the Board has termed out and after 4+ years as President of the Board I am ready to hand over the reins! At the same time, the rhythm of the Museum, its activities and the Board meetings has become ingrained in my life. I will miss everyone, I will miss the Museum, but I will not be a stranger. I will find myself in a different role but I will still be involved in Museum activities.

This coming year should be a fabulous year with Alan Bufford as Board President as he has so many wonderful ideas and is so knowledgeable about Batesville. Rounding out the Board officers will be Amelia Bowman as Vice-President, Bruce Johnston as Secretary and Kenny Gerhardt as Treasurer. Glenda Martin and Amelia Bowman have agreed to stay on the Board for another term and they will be joined by Sonya Rucker and Kenny Gerhardt. As I already said, 2020 is going to be a wonderful year.

A thousand thanks go to Laura Reed and Terri Crawford for their dedication to the Museum and the untold hours they put in to keep the Museum a fun and exciting place to visit. A thousand thanks, also, to the docents who work tirelessly in all areas.

At OIRM I have not only learned much about Batesville, I have been challenged to grow and I have made life-long friends.
Lyon College Men’s Soccer Team Volunteers at OIRM

More than twenty young men arrived at OIRM on a beautiful October morning to tidy up the museum both inside and out. As part of Lyon College’s Annual Service Day, the Men’s Soccer Team spent the morning trimming shrubs, weeding the heritage garden, and dusting exhibits. Not only did the gentlemen work hard, but they had an opportunity to explore the exhibits as well. We appreciate their service!

Mr. Larry Bynum Wins Bad Boy Mower!

Board member Ashley Engles organized a new fundraiser for OIRM this year. Thanks to the generosity of Bad Boy Mowers, the museum raised $2,140 by offering chances to win a riding lawn mower. The winning ticket belonged to Mr. Larry Bynum of Pfeiffer, pictured here with the mower.

Thank you to Bad Boy Mowers, Ashley Engles, and all who participated in this fundraiser!

“A Little House Christmas” Float Wins 3rd Place!

OIRM won 3rd place in the non-profit division of the Batesville Kiwanis’ Christmas parade! “A Little House Christmas” was organized by Amy Howard, who was joined by Karis Bufford-Ford, Gracie and Ashley Engles, and Alan Bufford in period costume. Clint Howard navigated the float safely down a crowded Main Street.
Financials

2018 Expenses

Salaries, Payroll Taxes, Benefits: 48%
Bank Fees: 3%
Professional Fees: 2%
Utilities and Security Fees: 5%
Exhibit, Collections, Grant and Special Event Expenses: 19%
Maintenance & Repair Costs: 10%
Insurance: 9%
Postage, Office Supplies, Travel & Other Miscellaneous Expenses: 4%
Advertising: 0%

2018 Revenues

23% Grant Revenue (Local, State, Federal & Private)
21% Interest Income
17% Membership and Day Sponsors
13% Memorials, Honors, & Donations
Dividend Income
Capital Gains
5% Admissions, Archives, & Gift Shop Revenue

Docent Appreciation Day
Membership

FOUR DAYS OR MORE
Rick Elumbaugh – City of Batesville Mayor
Robert Griffin – Independence County Judge
First Community Bank of Batesville
Arkansas Lime
Hail Technologies, Inc.
Willa Harkey
Jane Jameson
Raymond & Dianne LaCroix
Kirk Warden-LaCroix Optical
Scott Lancaster-Bad Boy I

TWO DAYS
Charles & Betty Barnett
Nancy Britton
Bob Carius
Emma Lou Hedden
Don Heuer
George Lankford
Mary Ann Marshall
Steve & Ellen Massey
Mrs. Lisenne Rockefeller
Bob & Deborah Stroud
Hal & Mary Vandiver
Dennis & Twyla Wright

DAY SPONSOR
Dave & Cindy Allen
Larry and Martha Bentley
Nelson & Sandy Barnett
Alan Bufford
Citizens Bank of Batesville
Charles & Jennie Cole
Kate Cooke
Gene & Terri Crawford
Sylvia Crosby
Future Fuel Chemical
Paul Holifield-Econo-Mart Pharmacy
Bill and Sandra Nash-Hughes
Bruce & Sue Johnston
Arch & Mary Kay Jones
Karl Kemp
Pat & Mary Lea
Mike & Bobby Low
Matthew Luoma

Lyons College
Charles McClain, Jr
Ned Metcalf
Midwest Lime Company
Barrett & Sara Moore
Sara Nance (Gift)
Calvin & Julie Reves
Doyle “Rog” Rogers, Jr.
Fred & Peggy Shelton
Kay Southerland
Barbara Stevenson
Terrell & Diane Tebbetts
Jim Wann
Michael & Sandy West
David & Beth Winberry
Bill and Janis Walmsley

FRIENDS
Judy Babcock
Phil & Dee Dee Baldwin
IN Barnett Family
Aubry Bell
Paul & Joni Bube
Dale and Gayle Cole
Donald & Deann Coleman
Boris & Pamela Dover
Gerald Fulbright
David Hanks
Don Heuer
T.J. and Tommie Hively
Barbara Hoover
Edward House
Carolyn Craig Keeble
Wesley and Virginia Ketz, Jr
John & Jean Larson
Frances & Donald Mathis
Max & Susan McElmurry
Marion Milum
David & Dr. Sharan Pittser
Carol Robertson
Skip & Billie Rutherford
William & Louise Sandefur
Becky Siegel
Mary Slaughter

FAMILY
James & Camille Anderson
James & Anne Bechdolt

Dr. Scott & Kathryn-Blackwell
David & Suzanne Blair
Jim & Joanna Buchanan
Mickey & Shirley Coe
George & Della Mae-Dortch
R.B. & Nona Floyd
Jean Garner
Kenny & Michele Gerhardt
Barry & Sandy Hammers
Jimmy and Bertha Hughes
Guy & Charlotte Lacy
Dean and Leann Lindsey
"Ed" & Venus Mabry
Gary & Tommie McDonald
Merry McSpadden
Pete and Helen Musgrave
Craig Ogilvie
Joe and Kay Pool
Bob & Judy Purnell
Landon Reeves
Jay & Cathy Shell
David and Bonnie Taylor, MD
Mayfan & Clinton Thomas
Fran Troy
Fred & Linda Wann
Danny & Lucy Yeager

INDIVIDUAL
Darren Altom
Denise Baker
Batesville Collectors Club
Amelia Bowman
Robert Carius
Pam Easterwood
Ashley Engles
Carol Gifford
Shannon Haney
Luiza Harper
Margaret Henley
Aaron Herndon
Velva Huddleston
Barbara Rutherford
Keedy
Donna Magar

Glenda Martin
Matt Martin
Carolyn McClure
Robbie Purdom
Estell Rucker
Amy Shaver
Kitty Sloan
Malinda Maxfield Tulloh
Sarah Witkowski

SENIOR
William Beller
Polly Bennett
Freda Briscoe
Dixie & Barbara Carpenter
Rosemary Catton
Kathy Clements
William Coe
Connie Crymes
Betty Crutcher
Janet Galvan
Lloyd Gathright
Mary Harmon
Jack Helm
Valerie Holler
Frances Jernigan
Charles & Shirley Marable
Cheryl Matthews
Charles McClain Jr.
Velma Gould McSpadden
Michael Moser
Julia Nail
Ruth & Ed Pellow
Gary Perkey
Tim Richardson
Kenneth Rory
Eleanor Royer
Joan Sellers
Kay Simpson
Mark Sneed
Dorma Talburt
Tandy Whitaker
Katherine Whittenton
Steve Wilson
Alice Witterman
Carolyn Winberry