

CORRECTION...

Robert Matthews is keeping an eye out to guarantee the historical accuracy of newsletter items. Mr. Matthews contacted the Museum to note a correction to our article on The Prevo Journals. Although Mr. Prevo mentioned in his July 1, 1942 journal entry that the "new cash register in operation today," this did not mean an end to the working days of the 1911 National cash register. It was used until Prevo's closed in 1992!

~~~~~

## ***WISH LIST...***

This issue of the wish list is clearly influenced by our entertainment plans!

- Insulated pitch for hot drinks
- Forty-two cup coffee pot
- Ladle
- Crockpot
- Also, a laptop computer shoulder bag
- Sturdy cardboard boxes that have been stored in a clean, dry space for packing our collection.

~~~~~

African-American History Timeline

Just in time for *African-American History Month* in February. The *African-American History* timeline is available to 5th through 12th grade classes. Sue Parsons and Sarah Carlson have assembled photos and stories of local and national historic leaders and events, based on the spring 2005 African Americans of Putnam County exhibit. This interactive traveling exhibit can be loaned to teachers to complement their social studies curriculum. Interested teachers should contact the Museum at 653-8419 or pcmuseum@crtc.com.

~~~~~

## ***MEMBERSHIPS...***

(Note: In the last membership update, two membership renewals were not included: Dr. & Mrs. Don Brattain renewed at the Treasure level and Mr. Joe Miles at the Collectible level. We apologize for this error.)

### ***New Members (Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2005)***

#### **Artifact (\$100 - \$249)**

Mac & Joyce Dixon-Fyle

#### **Keepsake (\$50 - \$99)**

Paul & Dana Cummings

Greater Greencastle Chamber of Commerce

Angie & Rick Smock

Ruth & Larry Timm

Mrs. Beverly Wagoner

#### **Collectible (\$25 - \$49)**

Anonymous

John Bean

Robert E. Buis

Ronald & Charlene Cox

Ron Dye

Steve & Pat Gaulty

Judy George

Peter Graham

Mary Ann Hanna

Kenny & Kate Hirt

North Putnam High School

Anne Phipps

Amy & Tad Robinson

Wilma Shaul

#### **Trinket (\$10 - \$24)**

Kathy Stephan

### ***Renewing Members (Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2005)***

#### **Heirloom (\$1000 & \$4,999)**

Neal Abraham & Donna Wiley

Dr. & Mrs. Warren Macy

Putnam County Convention & Visitor Bureau

#### **Treasure (\$500 - \$999)**

Mr. & Mrs. William Berish

Savoring their disapproving remarks, he would display his cash and then enjoy the abrupt turnover to royal treatment – that is, if he hadn't decided to walk out. Wade became best known for his decision to preach at his own funeral on May 16, 1937. After the Associated Press caught wind of this and publicized Wade's funeral, 5000 citizens flocked to the small Canaan Church located north of Fillmore near Heritage Lake. Wade's casket was cut from an oak tree on his property and his tombstone was imported from Switzerland. Wade's wife's only request was that he not bring his coffin into the house. Portions of these stories were related to Susan Stewart by her in-laws, Harvey and Cletas Stewart, as Wade was Cletas' great-uncle. Harvey was one of six pall bearers on that May day and received a crisp \$5 for his efforts. Lee Stewart recently uncovered another link to Wade when he discovered that Phillip Evans of Fillmore was his distant relative and had also collected Wade's stories. When Phillip's daughter, Rachel Mohr, visited the classroom during the Fillmore presentation, the generations reached out and touched one another.

The current school presentations use stories, artifacts, crafts and traditions to describe county folklore. Stories for each visit are chosen based on site location. Presentation highlights include: the wooden toy collection made by Robert Goldsberry; Nancy's story of the Reelsville area Huffman neighbors who lived in a tree during pioneer times; Linda's personal experience with making maple syrup; and LaDonna's tales of her Aunt Mary and life around Putnamville. Mariette tells a spooky story about a DePauw student who is visited by a spectral form as punishment for taking a book that is not supposed to be checked out from the DePauw library. Listeners are guaranteed to properly check out and return books after hearing this tale. Shirley's "Underground Railroad" quilts depict designs and colors which, according to folklore, signal directions

for runaway slaves on how to get to safety in the north. Finally, Anne Phipps' water witching rods demonstrate for students how sites are identified for digging wells. Anne's resources proved most valuable to the team.

Students, as usual, were engaged and engaging. The team's favorite remark came from a young man at Central Elementary who, after viewing the quilts and seeing one that had belonged to Susan as a baby, asked, "How old is that quilt anyway?" And that, dear readers, is the end of THIS story!



Children pictured from Mrs. Boyce's 4th-grade class at Tzouanakis School are (l to r): Clair Perry, Tayler Arnold, Tyler Nield & Amber Hauck.



Members pictured from the Museum Education Team are (l to r): Linda Raines, Susan Stewart, Mariette Bargaen, Shirley Steward, LaDonna Kelly and Nancy Landes.

Directory mailing.

- To Sally Gray, Kathi Harbison, Evelyn McKamey, Wilmas Sears, Eileen Shinn and several anonymous button donors who contributed supplies for the Education Committee's visits to third and fourth grade classrooms around the county.
- To our mailing volunteers, who fold, stick, and stamp the newsletter and other mailings throughout the year: Judy Aikman, Wanda Bitzer, Don & June Brattain, Sally Gray, Emmaline Henry, Helen Houck, Mary Ann Saathoff, Wilma Shaul, Eileen Shinn, Carol, Doris, & Robert Stoelting, Nora Stork, and Diana & Darrel Thomas.
- To Betty Aker who has agreed to act as the Museum publicity archivist. She will collect all newspaper items about the Museum into a scrapbook for display.
- To our newsletter contributors: Jinsie Bingham, Sally Gray, Kathi Harbison, Warren Macy, Kit Newkirk, Sue Parsons, Susan Stewart, Gordon Walters, Chris Wurster,
- To Rita Schendel for putting this newsletter together.
- To Angela Timm and Cottage Gardens for printing this newsletter.

~~~~

Holiday Traditions

By Kathi Harbison

The Museum's Holiday Traditions exhibit opened December 5, with Santa greeting guests at the evening opening and party. Delicious refreshments provided by our advisory board members and docents, a.k.a. the Museum "elves of wonder" were enjoyed by all in attendance. (Copies of the traditional and not-so-traditional family recipes were passed out and are still available at the Museum.) June Brattain organized the unique collections of foods—yum! The holiday festivities were highlighted by music from the Covered Bridge Country Chorus. A fun time was had by everyone!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the holiday party and the exhibit!

Museum "elves of wonder"...

Mariette Bargon, Beth Benedix, June Brattain, Sally Gray, Kathi Harbison, Emmaline Henry, Stacy Klingler, Kit Newkirk, Eileen Shinn, Shirley Steward, Doris Stoelting, Kay and Weaver.

Holiday Traditions Exhibit made possible by...

Kathi Harbison (coordinator), Betty Aker, June & Don Brattain, Charlene Cox, Sally Gray, Jan Firebaugh, Main Street Greencastle/Mike Nees, Ryan May, Sue Parsons, The Robinson Family, Wilma Shaul, Eileen Shinn, Gail Smith/ Almost Home, and Alan & Donna Stanley.



Santa greets visitors to the Holiday Traditions exhibit!

~~~~

***traditional***, *adj.* of, handed down by, or conforming to tradition; conventional; customary.

probably a ballroom, original stenciling was discovered. The stenciling was designed for a rural home and differed distinctly from stenciling popular at the time in urban areas. The addition of oak leaves to the pineapple (a hospitality symbol) pattern is the clue to the rural origin.

It was from his mother that Neal gained his interest in history—and not just in reading about the past, but in historical research. He and his mother eventually ended up in Maryland's capital, Annapolis, to locate the records of the land grants that apply to their property. And Neal, by overlaying the jig saw puzzle of the land grants of the area that he constructed from the 1930's aerial photos of the land and fence rows, was able to identify the location of the house on a land grant called "Brothers Request."

Donna and Neal both earned their doctorates at Bryn Mawr College where they met. Before moving to Greencastle seven years ago, Donna was chief development officer at Bryn Mawr and Neal taught in the physics department. Donna now works as a consultant with Grenzebach Glier and Associates, a Chicago based firm that advises nonprofit organizations about fundraising and board management. Her work-related travels take her primarily to the northeast and midwest; colleges, universities, medical centers, museums and botanical gardens are among the kinds of organizations she helps.

Neal began his tenure at DePauw a Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. For the last couple of years, as Executive V.P., he has added responsibilities in institutional planning and general management to his administrative duties.

But here is a coincidence to challenge Ripley's Believe It Or Not: Hagerstown, Maryland, located on the Old National Road (U.S. Route 40), is just seven miles south of Greencastle, Pennsylvania. And it is reported that the farmer who gave the land

for our Greencastle's founding, did so with the condition that the town be named after his wife's hometown—Greencastle, PA. So we can argue that it was fated that Neal and Donna should move to Greencastle, Indiana, and even that they should become heirloom members of the Putnam County Museum.

We are pleased to honor Donna Wiley and Neal Abraham as Heirloom members. We thank them for their enthusiastic interest in Putnam County history.

~~~~~

Indiana Folk Music

To hear guitarist Ron Dye and fiddler John Bean make music is to feel good to be alive. In a cozy circle in the Annex courtroom on a sunny autumn day, lucky listeners relaxed for an hour of toe-tappin' folksong about love found and lost and pursuits wise and foolish. They heard fused versions of the plaintive Ballad of Pearl Bryan and rip-roarin' foot-stompers about the revelry of Bacchus. Dye, a part-time instructor in the English and Communication departments at DePauw University, was raised on folk music by his father and uncles; he later studied folk music at Indiana University. Bean, lyricist for Tad Robinson and member of contradance group, "Double Vision," holds the title of Master Fiddler of Indiana. The entertaining and educational event shows that enormous talent resides in Putnam County, is shared generously, and improves our personal and professional lives. The Museum thanks Ron Dye and John Bean for promoting its folklore exhibit and for sharing their musical talents.

~~~~~

***Folk music, music made and handed down among the common people.***

***How are we going to pay for it?*** We are pursuing \$40,000 in grants and community donations for the renovation and move. If we maintain our current level of annual income from memberships and donations, we will still have a balanced budget. We believe, however, that with better facilities and visibility, our membership will grow, and with it, our income.

***When is this going to happen?*** We hope to begin construction just as soon as the funding is in place. Once begun, we hope to finish in about 30 days. Our goal is to be in the new facility before the daffodils bloom this spring.

***How can I help?*** You can contribute your ideas for the new facility. You can spread the word. You can join a volunteer work day to help paint, pack, or move. And, for a limited time only, you can donate to the building fund.

~~~~~

From the Pen of Greencastle Native, “C.T.”

My childhood home was at 214 Higgert Street on the corner where Melrose Avenue ends and across the street from Mr. Eitel’s big tomato patch. From that site we watched the milk man and his horse come bounding down the hill. We were fascinated because there was the occasional mishap. It is also where we watched the gypsies come traipsing down the hill with their jiggling wagons and trailing animals. At sight of them, mother shooed us children into the house. The only time they were made welcome was if she had a pot that needed mending.

Living across the field from Barnaby’s saw mill and the railroad tracks, we enjoyed a steady flow of box car travelers. Most all were welcome to food at the little table set up on the back porch, especially if they felt like splitting

a little wood. The only ones rejected by our mother were those with the smell of liquor or misbehavior.

We also lived a couple of blocks from the Monon railroad station, where the trains carrying the Circus paraphernalia—animals and performers—unloaded early on summer mornings. In order to reach the Circus grounds across from the hospital, they had to parade by our front door. What a thrill for us children. And when we were old enough, we rushed right to the lot to get the best jobs in helping them to set up for their shows. We worked hard to get a free pass. What a wonderful time in our lives!

~~~~~

### ***Connections to the Past***

***By Susan Stewart***

Connections. Life is all about connections. At the Putnam County Museum attention falls on links to the past. Sometimes it finds a straight path to preceding generations; other times the way twists and turns like a toboggan ride. Such was the case during the Museum Education Team’s recent comprehensive show. Six members of the traveling team—Mariette Bargaen, LaDonna Kelly, Nancy Landes, Linda Raines, Shirley Steward, and Susan Stewart—presented a condensed version of the Folklore exhibit to students at these elementary schools: Central, Cloverdale, Fillmore, Reelsville, and Tzouanakis. The team plans to visit Roachdale and Bainbridge elementary schools in Winter 2006.

During the visit to Fillmore the past entwined with the present through a series of events sparked by research into the life of eccentric Floyd Township resident, Wade Miliman. Unmarried until his mid-seventies, Wade was an unusual man who carried his bonds and cash in a gunnysack on his walking stick. He delighted in shocking those in banks and nice restaurants with his hobo-like attire.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Evans  
Mickey Meehan  
Gordon & Sharon Walters  
Patricia Ann Watkins

**Antique (\$250 - \$499)**

Abstract & Title Co. of Putnam County  
John & Peggy Wood

**Artifact (\$100 - \$249)**

Beth & Jim Benedix  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Brookshire  
Dick & Annie Cloncs  
Josephine, Devin, & Eric DeWeese  
John & Ellen Dittmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Willaim Dory  
Phyllis A. Evens  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Farber  
Lou Fontaine  
Ralph Gray  
David & Alice Greenburg Family  
Greencastle Offset Printing  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Jones  
Vicky & James Krider  
Jack & Connie Lawson  
Robert Matthews  
Mr. & Mrs. David Murray  
Gary & Brenda Pershing  
Barbara Silander  
Alan & Donna Stanley  
Eve & Bob Stark  
Dr. James & Zella Thomas  
Lynne Tweedie & Chris Wurster  
Kay & Don Weaver

**Keepsake (\$50 - \$99)**

Almost Home/Gail Smith  
Thomas & Carol Emery  
Byron & Carolyn Gough  
Mr. & Mrs. William Marley  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Mourouzis  
Charles & Holly Pritchett  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Prosser  
Tonya & Doug Schober  
Larry & Lora Scott

Harold Spicer  
Vicki Timm & Steve Aker

**Collectible (\$25 - \$49)**

Charlie & Pat Birkemeier  
Robert & Gwen Bottoms  
Dorothy Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Caine  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eccles  
David Field  
Catherine Fruhan  
Robert Goldsberry  
Betty Harmless  
Marilyn Hoover  
Mr. & Mrs. Brent McColgin  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Musser  
Kristi & Keith Nelson  
Doretta & William Poynter  
Clyde & Peggy Spencer  
Steve & Laura Stamper  
George & Fauneil Stewart  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sunkel  
Elnora & Audrey Walton  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Edmund White  
Laura Jean Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Wrightsman

**Trinket (\$10 - \$24)**

Pat & William Braden  
Donna Eppelheimer  
Dian D. Phillips  
Kathryn Sanders  
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Wilson

**DONATIONS**

**Special Donations**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Evans, \$500, for the Membership Directory  
Jack & Shirley Dalton, \$300  
Sally Gray, \$50

**Grants**

Clowes Fund, \$5,000

Facilities Fund (Total: \$4,998.40)

Mr. & Mrs. William Berish, \$500  
Dr. & Mrs. James Thomas, \$250  
Wes & Elena Wilson, \$20  
Harvest Days Donations, \$7

### **In-Kind**

Old National Bank, Desk & Chair

~~~~

Education Committee

By Shirley Steward



Hailey Madsen, Shavonna Lehr, Ashley Hacker,
Bridget McFerron, Deena Hesselgrave



Michael McCullough, Chris Routh, Briar
Wheeler, David Kelly, Devin Bassett

Cloverdale Elementary School 4th graders enjoyed Robert Goldsberry's hand-carved wooden toys at the folklore program presented at Cloverdale by the Museum's Education Committee On December 5, 2005.

Committee members Mariette Bargaen,
LaDonna Kelly, Nancy Landes, Linda Raines,

Shirley Steward, and Susan Stewart presented programs at all county elementary schools using the museum's format of Putnam County Folklore. The program included stories of Luke & Charity Townsend settling in Putnam County, Wade Millman, who preached his own funeral at Canaan Church in 1937, the DePauw Library ghost, the experiences of "Aunt Mary" growing up in Putnam County in the early 1900s, and the family which lived in a large poplar tree in the mid-1800s in the southern part of the county. Traditions and craft objects demonstrated included the Goldsberry toys, quilts, covered bridges in the county, canning, medicinal remedies, water witching, and square dancing.

~~~~

## ***Greencastle Kitchen Cabinet***

***By Gordon Walters***

When was the last time you made Ox Eyes  
Corn Pudding or Raspberry Shrub?  
And you probably used a mix – just add water  
and voila: Ox Eyes!

But back in the olden days, lots of folks in these parts—and elsewhere—made tons of goodies—all from the Greencastle Cabinet Company's Guaranteed (note the "guaranteed" part) Recipes—by assembling the many necessary ingredients on their Greencastle Cabinet Company kitchen cabinets. Just like the one that sits in the Putnam County Museum as part of the museum's Folklore and Folk Arts in Putnam County exhibit. The exhibit will continue at the museum until the end of March.

The museum's Greencastle Cabinet will last a good deal beyond the move of the museum to its new location (1105 North Jackson Street) in spring 2006, we suppose. The company stopped production of the cabinets in 1918. That means the museum's cabinet, which is, to be precise, a Kitchen Cabinet model No. 49, is at least 87 years old. Nobody uses it anymore (although you can still see traces of white flour

5. Restrooms, Kitchen, and Volunteer Lounge. Just what you would expect. True, they are quite a distance from the multi-purpose room, but, as plumbing is already in place, this is the most economical arrangement.

6. Area for Future Expansion. Our landlord has kindly agreed to retain this area for use as storage. Thus, we can save on rent for the near future, while having room to expand some day.

7. Collections Storage. Here we can store our treasured artifacts with controlled temperatures and protection from moisture and light. We will have much needed room to organize and grow our collection.

8. Work Area. Building exhibits, accessioning, and researching the collection will take place in the work area. Here also will be the Director's office and secure storage. The oral history office is a room that can be used not only as an office, but also as a sound studio for collecting oral and video histories so that future generations can hear our stories in the original voices.

9. Outdoor Exhibits. The large parking lot and surrounding ground offer great potential. We hope one day to be able to accept donations of such things as a one room school, a log cabin, a depot, or farm machinery. The parking lot will also accommodate school and tour buses. We will have great visibility to the many natives and visitors who pass along 231 each day.

Plans for the new Museum are still developing. The more people who collaborate on the plan, the better it becomes. If you have ideas to contribute, don't be shy. Now is the time. Feel free to contact me or Stacy with questions, comments or suggestions.

~~~~~

Frequently Asked Questions about the New Facility

By Kit Newkirk

Wouldn't it be better to put the museum in a nice old house? Experts from the Historical Society and from our own board point out that while old house museums have an important place in the world, they are expensive to restore and maintain, limited as to what they can display, not easily accessible. We believe that this large, flexible space will allow us to pursue our mission more thoroughly and to serve a wider audience.

Wouldn't it be better to build a new building? Not only will this move will be much less expensive than a building a new museum, we can do it sooner. As you know, we are bursting the seams of our current space. Moreover, this move does not rule out a new building in the future. Lessons learned as we grow into our new space will come in handy in that event.

If this is "Phase 1", what's next? Phases two and three entail improvements to the exterior of the property and to the kitchen.

How much will it cost? Our fundraising goal is \$40,000. The plan is essentially very simple because heating, electrical service, and the floor are already in place. Our alterations will mainly consist of erecting 8' interior walls and dropping electricity into some areas. I hope that we can do the interior renovations for much less than \$30,000. (This does not include remodeling the kitchen) Funds raised in excess of the cost of construction, we can apply toward furnishing and equipping the facility and the kitchen. Renovations for the exterior will come later.

Collections Committee Asking You To “Wow Us”

By Warren Macy

The Collections Committee of the Putnam County Museum has met several times in the past two months and the product of these meetings is a 59 item “Wish List” for the museum. The list has been prioritized with seven of the items being designated as “WOW” items. These are things that visitors will look at and, you guessed it, say “WOW”. The first two such items will, hopefully, be on display when we move into our new facility. The first is a Dixie Chopper exhibit that we foresee featuring one or two of the very first Dixie Chopper mowers as well as early advertising and other memorabilia. In early talks, Dixie Chopper officials have indicated a willingness to help with this display but any items or stories you have would be greatly appreciated.

The second display will feature the infamous John Dillinger robbery of Central National Bank. We have a start on this with an original copy of the Banner covering the robbery as well as an original Dillinger wanted poster but we need more. Again, any items from the bank, stories, etc. are needed. Rumor has it that at least one of the teller’s cages from the bank is still hiding in Greencastle. If you have items or stories to help shape these displays please contact Stacy Klinger at 765-653-8419 or Warren Macy at 653-9341 and “WOW” us.



Donna Wiley and Neal Abraham: Honored Heirlooms

By Sally Gray

Donna Wiley has a Ph.D. in Art History so it is no surprise that she has a love of history. Her husband, Neal Abraham, on the other hand, has a Ph.D. in Physics, so the reasons behind his love of history are less obvious.

But just a few minutes spent in conversation with Neal about his family tradition of a deep interest in history reveals his passion not only for his family history specifically but for history in general.

Neal grew up in Hagerstown, Maryland, in a brick Georgian house that his family believes was built between 1770 and 1790. Not only is the Georgian style an anomaly for that time and part of the country (most of the houses in the area were built from local limestone) but it is believed that the brick was carried across the ocean as ballast. Then, of course, the brick had to be transported at least sixty miles inland over hill and dale, no easy task!

Neal’s parents bought the house and its eighty acres, at one time a plantation, in the 1950’s. Corn and wheat were the likely crops grown, but today along the fencerows are mulberry trees in great numbers. It is probable, as was not uncommon for that period and locale, that mulberry trees were cultivated in response to British interests in the silk industry. When the silk effort failed, only those trees, seeded by nature and protected from plowing along the fencerows, survived.

At the time of the Abraham’s purchase the plantation house had twelve rooms and seven fireplaces. Neal’s parents immediately began major renovation to accommodate their large family. Interesting things were revealed about the original house with the renovation: the thickly-walled kitchen, with its walk-in cooking fireplace, was initially separated from the main house; in a 30 x 50 foot upper level room,

Fair Tales: The First First-aid at the Fair

by Gordon Walters

Nursing is an interesting profession.

For instance: nursing took Helen Hurst from Putnam County (when she was still Helen Reasor) to North Africa, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily...and back to Greencastle again.

Hurst can of course tell lots of stories, about working at Putnam County Hospital after she was graduated from nurse's training, about joining the Red Cross in 1940 and volunteering to serve as a nurse during World War II in the Mediterranean. She served there five years.

As a nurse, Hurst chalked up a couple of local firsts – the first school nurse in the South Putnam school district – and in 1947, she started working, as a Red Cross nurse, at the Putnam County Fair. She was the Fair's first nurse.

So Hurst was in on the Fair's first-aid affairs from the ground up. She recalls that two local people, Perry Rush and Lois Cowgill, asked her, "Don't you think the Fair needs some kind of first-aid?" The catch was, Hurst remembers, the Red Cross had very little money to spend on first-aid at the Fair.

So, in truth, when first-aid service first appeared at the Putnam County Fair, Hurst would have experienced a certain *deja vu*: first-aid at the Fair in 1947 was to be found in an army tent, set up where the flagpole now stands on the fairgrounds.

And, like a good ex-army nurse, Hurst knew what to do to stock the tent.

"I scavenged, I got bandages, boric acid solution, band aids," she says. In the early first-aid years, when the Fair ended for the season, Hurst simply saved what supplies were left over, took them home, and stored them for the next Fair.

Eventually, Cletus and Daisy Sult, who owned Eventide Nursing Home, donated funds to finance the construction of a permanent first-aid building, the facility that still serves at the

Putnam County Fairgrounds.

But Hurst had to do some more scrounging, she says.

"We begged, borrowed and stole," Hurst says, "everything in the building." DePauw University gave furniture, Eventide Nursing Home donated beds. There was no ambulance service in the late 1940s and early 50s, Hurst recalls; she used her own car if anything developed that required quick transportation. "We were it," as Hurst says.

"I couldn't be there all the time," she adds with a chuckle, "but I was."

Later, Hurst took a show on the road, in a "trailer," so that first-aid could be had at fairs in Russellville, Cloverdale, and at the Farm Progress show in the northern part of the county. The "trailer" was a camper that belonged to a man named Bob King.

Health-care at local fairs was, as Hurst says, "people problems." That meant food poisoning (Hurst offered Maalox and Pepto-Bismol), pig bites (a tetanus shot might have been in order), what Hurst calls "trampling injuries," and folks who were over-heated.

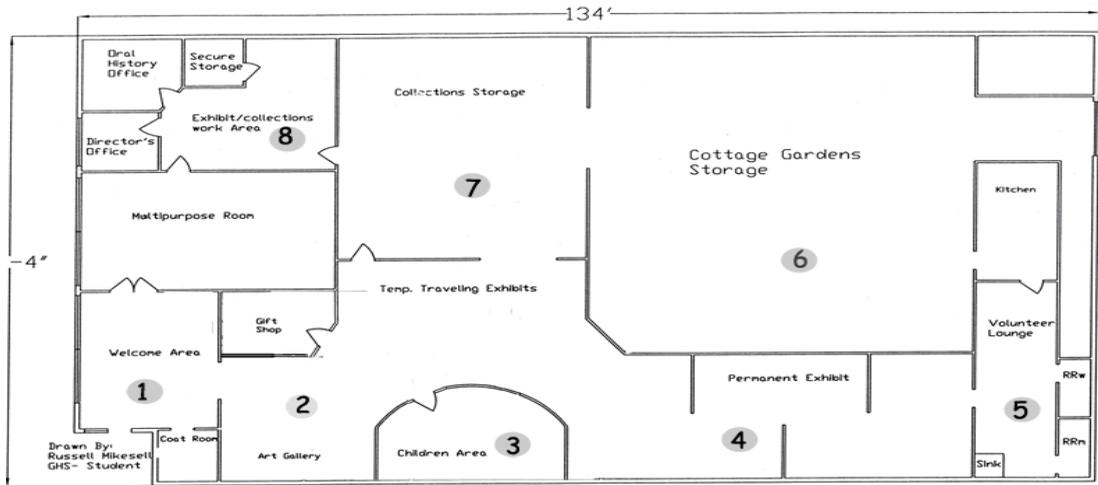
And "kids just needed to come in and rest," Hurst recalls. She remembers that young animal exhibitors sometimes got sick simply from the stress of exhibiting their stock. Sheep maybe.

And that gets us around to other stories.

Helen Reasor became Helen Hurst when she married the late William Hurst. The two of them were sheep farmers; Helen also worked part-time as a nurse. For more than 50 years, Bill and Helen showed their sheep at the Indiana State Fair. Helen still cares for seven ewes and one ram on the farm where Bill was born and where he died. Bill and Helen raised two daughters, Beverly and Carolyn. Both of them work with the Red Cross.

~~~~~

## History in the Making: The New Home of the Putnam County Museum



### *A Tour of the Putnam County Museum's New Home - Phase I* By Kit Newkirk

Putnam County's Museum will open this year at 1105 North Jackson Street. Planning for this exciting new facility is well underway. Please follow along with the floor plan illustrated above.

1. The Welcome Area. Here volunteer docents will welcome visitors of all ages to the Museum. The adjacent cloak room will provide storage for coats, hats, and backpacks. Ahead to the north is the multi-purpose room where we will hold meetings, programs, and teach school groups. Windows bring natural light into these areas. The entire Museum will be accessible to folks in wheel chairs.

2. Changing Exhibits. In this area we will be able to mount a new exhibit every few months. An art gallery in the southwest corner will

showcase two and three-dimensional works with local origins. Next is a large space to our themed exhibits (the first exhibit in the new location will be on transportation). This space affords us a great deal of flexibility. We can even bring in large items such as automobiles through a loading bay at the rear of the building. Adjacent to the changing exhibits will be the gift shop.

3 Children's Area. We hope young children will enjoy playing and learning in an area designed especially for them. The children's area will suggest the shape of a round barn. Inside there may be a "hay loft" for climbing, ropes and pulleys, butter churns, dress-ups, ride upons, and hands-on activities linked to the changing exhibits.

4. Permanent Exhibit. Here we plan to display artifacts and tell the unique story of Putnam County's history. We hope that this will become a point of interest and pride, not only for citizens and visitors, but also for school groups.

in the bins), but it's sturdy enough, it appears, to take a few more sugar cookies. Model No. 49 was advertised by its manufacturer as "our best seller." In its 1907 catalog, the Cabinet Company announced, "We are constantly studying to attain perfection in manufacturing a cabinet that will meet the requirements of the most exacting."

The cabinet on display at the Putnam County Museum is pretty much what we see illustrated in the 1907 catalog: golden oak finish, over six feet high, glass-paned doors, and flour bins in the base and over the work-surface top.

The Greencastle Cabinet Company, "Manufacturers of Kitchen Cabinets and Furniture Specialties," made cabinets well enough to stay in business for a while.

The company was founded by Frank Day and Frank Coss in 1907. Day had once run a local handle factory, but he gave that business up in favor of making kitchen cabinets. Things seem to have gone well for a few years—so well in fact that Coss announced in 1910 that he wanted to move the company to Martinsville. Martinsville had tempted Day and Coss with an offer of land and money.

But, according to the Greencastle Herald-Democrat, the Greencastle Chamber of Commerce mightily objected to the company's departure; eventually, the company agreed, in 1911, to stay. Some litigation developed, and it appears that Day and Coss's interest in the business was waning. In 1918, they sold the company to Grafton Johnson and James Nelson, but these owners went into receivership in 1919.

The cabinets the Greencastle Cabinet Company made are, of course, in the style known as "Hoosier cabinets." There was indeed a genuine Hoosier Cabinet Company, which was well established in Newcastle, Indiana, in the early part of the century. But cabinets similar to the one in the Putnam County Museum proved to be so popular that

several Indiana manufacturers made them. Hence, the term "Hoosier cabinet" has become generic and designates a free-standing, multi-purpose cabinet with "tambour" doors and pull-out flour bins. Evidently, these cabinets were in demand in the first quarter of the century because they allowed cooks—including



makers of Ox Eyes—to have supplies and a working surface at one kitchen station. Antique collectors prize the cabinets, and, as we might expect, "country furniture" makers manufacture reproductions.

To see this fabulous piece of Putnam County History, visit the museum Tuesday - Friday from 1 to 4 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm, or by appointment.

~~~~~

Museum Packing Training:

Fifteen museum volunteers and nine DePauw Winter Term students enjoyed a workshop on proper packing of museum objects on January 12 in the gym at the Courthouse Annex. This training marks the

beginning of our packing process.

Pictured left to right: Janie Long, Esther Evans, Kayla Lanham, June Brattain, Barbara Bates, Marissa Fenton, Ivan Uskokovic, Landon Jones, Jessica Heitkamp.



Shirley Steward and DePauw student Jill Irvin pack



a Greencastle fire department dress uniform in preparation for the Museum's move to 1105 N. Jackson Street in the spring.

~~~~~

## ***A New Fall Tradition***

The Putnam County Museum Run/Walk was held at DePauw's beautiful Nature Park. Fifty-six runners and walkers enjoyed a beautiful fall morning on the first day of October. Walkers

traveled 2 miles along Big Walnut Creek, and runners trekked 4 miles around the quarry rim and along the creek. The Run/Walk was sponsored by ASA Land Surveying, First National Bank, Magic Circle, Mill Pond Health Campus, Old National Bank, Payroll Express, Putnam County Convention & Visitor Bureau, and an anonymous donor. Next year, the same distances will be run and walked at the same location on the last Saturday of September at 9:00 a.m. Be there or be out of shape! Race applications are available through Lee Stewart or at the Museum.



Many thanks to Lee & Susan Stewart, Run/Walk Organizers Extraordinaire! (Photos by Sharon Evans)



Congratulations, new Dad! Jim Benedix.

while she was president of the museum. "When I get involved," she says, "I always do the best job I can."

Gray recalls the museum's exhibition focusing on county barns as her favorite museum project.

"It was the first one I was involved with," she recalls. "We live in the country, we have good neighbors who are farm families," and the Grays met even more farm families when they went here and there to collect materials for the barn exhibition.

Being the 2006 Putnam County Museum Roast-a-Relic roast-ee is not Sally's first big honor.

Gov. Evan Bayh named her Sagamore of the Wabash for her work in helping those people with addictions. She has served on the board of directors of the Indiana Judicial Conference, was an officer of the Indiana Judges Association, taught courses at the National Judicial College and the Indiana Judicial Conference and has been chairwoman of the Indiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program.

"I've had two quite distinct but very satisfying careers," Gray says as she considers her achievements --"first as an economics teacher for 24 years and then in the law. Now I am enjoying a third satisfying 'career' with the Putnam County Museum." Such are Sally Gray's vocations. She enjoys travel (she and Ralph recently cruised through the Panama Canal) reading (Sally likes mysteries), and gardening.

Sally Gray invites her former students to contribute anecdotes to keep the roast fires burning. Others who have known her are also encouraged to hurl forks and add sauce.

The Sally Gray "Roast-a-Relic" is the Putnam County Museum's annual winter fundraiser. The affair will get under way at the Dixie Chopper Banquet Hall at 6:30 p.m. with a social hour, cash bar, and live music. At 7:15 the dessert buffet will be offered and

the roasting will begin at 7:30. Tickets may be obtained at the museum, 209 W. Liberty St., or by calling 653-8419.

## ***Consider Other Ways to Support the Putnam County Museum***

***By Chris Wurster***

The Putnam County Museum has been fortunate to have received many charitable contributions through memberships and outright gifts of cash. But did you know there are other ways you can support the Museum? As we begin the New Year, here are a few ideas to consider as you plan your charitable contributions:

Gifts of appreciated securities: With the stock market again reaching historic highs, many investors hold securities which have great appreciation. If you sell those stocks you will incur significant capital gains tax. Consider making a gift of securities to the Museum. You may be able to make a larger gift at lower net cost, when you factor in your low basis and the capital gains tax you will avoid.

Gifts through your estate plan: The Museum is actively building an endowment for the future. You may contribute to this legacy by including the Museum in your estate plan. You may designate the Museum to receive a portion of your estate, either through a specific gift or as a percentage bequest. If you have not reviewed your will or estate plan in a while, now might be a good time to consider including the Putnam County Museum. By designating your bequest for the Museum endowment, thereby ensuring the future of this vital community asset.

You should always consult your legal and financial advisors before making any major gift of assets. For more information, contact: Stacy Klingler at the Putnam County Museum: 209 West Liberty Street, Greencastle, IN 46135. Phone - 765-653-8419.

## ***Fair Tales, an Oral History Event***

***By Jinsie Bingham***

It didn't take long for Fair Tales to turn into Fair Tails as a group of Putnam County Museum supporters and fair survivors gathered last November to remember some highlights and lowlights of our own Putnam County 4-H fair or 4-H related activities.

Helen Hurst is one of the premier Putnam County story tellers and she set the tone of the evening with memories dating back to the days when the fair was held on the Putnam County Square. Her daughter Bev Ross recalled when she was starting in 4-H back in the mid 1960's as then County Youth Agent Darrell Thomas was teaching greenhorns to sing the song about the dog named Bingo. With Thomas in the audience, Ross was careful about her description, but those acquainted with Thomas had no trouble filling in the polite blanks.

Helen's father, Walker Reasor, was a big Putnam County sheepman. He was planning to show off his new prize ram when the fair was located at Greencastle's Robe Ann Park. The carnival set up on the baseball field close to the sheep barn. Someone lured Reasor to the fortune teller on the carnival grounds as others spirited away the ram.

Helen looked directly at attendee Maurice Fordice who hummed and hawed and finally broke into chuckles. The ram was later located in another barn and Walker Reasor's blood pressure dropped 100 points. Fordice would admit no guilt.

Fordice and his wife Darlene were the first farm family to bring their camping trailer to the fairgrounds in 1967. Maurice traveled back and forth to the farm to feed and tend the livestock while Darlene and the 7 Fordices stayed on the fairgrounds at the corner of the sheep barn with the proviso they keep a lookout on the sheep and others after long hours of activities.

The long-time Russell Township family noted that some boys got into the rabbit tent

and rearranged some of the caged occupants. Darlene reports she still sees one of the bunny bandits in Montgomery County these days and thinks of the incident each time.

Retired DePauw professor John Dittmer, a Marion Township resident, recalled the Jackson County fair where he grew up. He was a "city" kid, but went with friends each year to try to peep into the "Hootch" show. He said all the Jackson county mothers admonished their sons NOT to do just that, but that made the project even more tempting. No one would admit that Putnam County would ever have such an attraction.

Helen Hurst was a major contributor to the conversation with her hilarious tales of livestock misadventures and dealing with interfering parents. Helen also has served as a project judge as well as being an exhibitor herself. Some great moments came as she was the founder of the Red Cross first-aid station on the fairgrounds. Helen is a registered nurse who served in the Army Nurse Corps during WWII. She went through the war wearing Army-issue two left boots. Anyone tough enough to do that ought to be prepared for duty on the home front. (*note: see pg. 13 for more about Helen Hurst*)

We can't name names and Helen didn't either. But when you've lived in a community for 50 years and are acquainted with the hometown folks it's easy to guess who the characters are in some of these tall tales. If you ever need a program for a group, call Helen.

Ken Torr was the master of ceremonies of this gathering which included both country and town folks. He and Gordon Whitman told of their 4-H years when Whitman was showing two heifers in the same class of Polled Herefords at the fair, so he asked Torr to show one of the calves for him. Torr placed over Whitman with Whitman's own animal.

Whitman got the best of the deal come State Fair time when the tables were turned and Torr had two heifers in the same class. Ken Torr asked his good friend Gordon Whitman

to show whichever heifer he selected to help Ken get both animals shown. You guessed it – Whitman placed over Torr showing Torr’s animal.

Museum President Kit Newkirk’s kids enrolled in 4-H when they moved to Greencastle in 1994. Kit said the wonderful county fair was one of the drawing cards to the community. In his first year son Adam Lorton placed first in the poultry meat pen competition. He was the first 4-H’er in the auction ring after deciding to sell the pen and had absolutely no idea what the procedure was. He had no trouble cashing the ensuing \$400 check!

Former Purdue Extension Educator Darrel Thomas served for many years as the youth agent and worked with all the various project leaders. He related his favorite day of the fair was the day it was over. He shared some yarns about livestock situations and the time the piano fell off the pick-up truck in transit from the Community Building to the Inside Arena. Luckily no one was hurt. Darrel also corralled many fair tale participants.

Lauralee Baugh, who is the current Extension Educator, talked of the friendships her sons made when they were in 4-H and of the traffic directing adventures of her late husband, former County Sheriff, Captain Jim Baugh. For thirty years Baugh was struck by a vehicle as he tried to maintain some semblance of order at the front gate on U.S. 231. No injury was very serious, but that’s a lot of bumps and bruises from folks who ought to know better. Lauralee said it got to be a joke that the Fair wasn’t complete until someone bumped Jim Baugh.

There were stories of parental interference and participation in 4-H Fair projects with tales about one entry purchased from Kroger which placed high in the judging and “bought” peaches recanned in a mason jar and displayed with the food preservation group. Helen Houck admitted to finishing her only 4-H project, a dress, but not taking the dress to the

fair because the family was going someplace and Helen wanted to wear the new dress.

Kenny Torr shared the story of his father John Torr winning the grand champion Steer show with a Hereford Steer. Someone from the rival Shorthorn group actually got into the ring and took the championship ribbon from John Torr. That was some 75 years ago, but fair memories remain vivid and stories are generational.

All in all some 19 participants contributed to Fair Tales, funny, sad, heartwarming and hometown. Some reading this review may not realize Putnam County has one of the best fairs in the country! Last year nearly 1,000 exhibits showed off the skills of our wonderful young people. Our local fair has better livestock competition than many state fairs – better animals, too!

Kit Newkirk closed the evening with a chuckle. A city friend of Newkirk’s daughter, Betsy Lorton, visited the Lorton household during fair week. This was a totally new experience for the visitor. Kit reported touring the livestock barns: sheep, beef, goat, swine and dairy. The next stop was the Farm Bureau stand for a refreshing treat. When asked if she would like a glass of milk, the visitor murmured a polite, “No thank you.”

~~~~

Thank You!

- To Collins Evans Real Estate and Sharon & Bob Evans for sponsoring the Membership Directory.
- To Steve Stamper of Silverwood Signs for printing and installing our “future home” sign at a discount.
- To Lee & Susan Stewart for their great organizational and health promotion skills in continuing the Museum’s Run/Walk, held on October 1, 2005.
- To Maurice McKee and Russell Mikesell at Greencastle High School for drawing the proposed Floor Plan for the Membership

Greencastle Gothic: The Tragic Story of Pearl Bryan

Friday, January 27, 7:30 PM.

Sunday, January 29, 2:00 PM.

Meharry Hall on the DePauw Campus

Greencastle Gothic is a cautionary tale of a young DePauw student's murder at the hands of two young men she thought she could trust. Set in Victorian era Greencastle, this most famous piece of Putnam County folklore was national news in 1896, inspired over 100 songs, and prompted many Greencastle visitors to leave pennies on her gravestone for decades. Enjoy an evening of Margo Bode's version of the story (in verse), as directed by Ron Dye, starring Jinsie Bingham, Kullan Edberg, Peter Edberg, Mark Frisbie, Ernie Ford, Diana LaViolette, Matt McClaine, Holly Pritchett, and Phoebe Pritchett as the young Pearl Bryan. Following the performance, Margo & Ken Bode will take to the stage to talk about their research into the Pearl Bryan Tragedy. All proceeds will benefit the Putnam County Museum. Advance tickets are available for \$5 at Fine Print, the Gathering Grounds, and at the Museum. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$8. For more information, phone 765-653-8419.

~~~~~

## ***Roasting Sally***

***By Gordon Walters***

No, I don't think so: Sally Gray isn't all that old. Almost nobody would call her a relic. "Sally Gray belongs in a museum!" you insist. OK: we'll give you that.

In fact, a number of people are going to get together to count the ways – and the years – in which Gray might appear to be hopelessly ancient. And, as things proceed, folks will talk about what Sally Gray has meant to our community. On Feb. 26, she will be the roast-ee at the Putnam County Museum's Roast-a-

Relic fundraiser.

But let's be serious for a minute.

When we consider what Sally Gray has accomplished, we might in fact think she's a lot older than she is.

For example: she has degrees from Ohio University (where she met her husband, Ralph) and Syracuse University (son David was born in Syracuse), where she took a master's degree in economics and public administration. The Grays lived and worked for a time in Little Rock, Arkansas (daughter Carol was born in Little Rock) before arriving in Greencastle as the 1960s came to a close.

Sally taught in the DePauw University department of economics for several years – before going to law school.

She remembers going to a meeting of a local group comprised mostly of women. "Somebody here ought to go to law school," somebody said.

And Sally Gray heard – and did. She also set about a series of successes which have benefited a number of organizations in our county.

Gray was graduated from the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis in 1979. She worked as managing attorney for Legal Services Organization in Vigo County. About this time, some Greencastle attorneys persuaded her to run for election as judge.

"I can learn anything I have to learn," Gray says, and she saw in being judge "a great opportunity to learn." Gray was in fact elected to the Putnam County trial bench in 1980 (a kind of hot seat, an audition for being roasted 26 years later). She served three terms in this capacity until she retired – from this job – in 1996. Gray then went on to her next job: the state Supreme Court appointed her Senior Judge, and she served eight years. In 2004, Gray retired – again – and became president of the Putnam County Museum. She's the museum's present membership chairperson.

By all accounts, Gray worked very hard

***Y***ou won't want to miss these exciting  
***EVENTS!***

***January 27, 7:30 PM & January 29, 2:00 PM  
Meharry Hall on the DePauw Campus  
Tickets: \$5.00 in advance; \$8.00 at the door  
Tickets may be purchased at Fine Print, the  
Gathering Grounds, or at the Museum.***



**Greencastle Gothic**

The tragic story of Pearl Bryan  
.....



***February 26, 6:30 PM  
Dixie Chopper Business Center  
Tickets: \$15.00***

***Roast - A - Relic  
(Sally Gray) tee-hee!***



The Putnam County  
Museum  
209 West Liberty Street

Nonprofit Bulk Rate  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 5  
Greencastle, IN

*“The mission of the Putnam County Museum is to collect, preserve, and interpret the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of the county and its people through education, exhibits, and special programs.”*

*Newsletter of the Putnam County Museum*



# Putnam Past Present & Future

Volume 3 Issue 3

January 2006

## Upcoming Events:

- January 27, 7:30 PM  
January 29, 2:00 PM  
Greencastle Gothic,  
***The tragic story of Pearl Bryan.*** Meharry Hall on the DePauw Campus.
- February 26,  
**Roast - A - Relic**  
6:30 - 7:15 Socialize  
7:30 Dessert & Roast

## Exhibits:

- *Folklore & Folk Arts in Putnam County.* Through March 2006.
- *Getting Around: Transportation in Putnam County.* Spring 2006

## Inside this issue:

*The next Putnam County Museum* by Kit Newkirk.  
*Ways to support the Museum* by Chris Wurster.  
*Honored Heirlooms* by Sally Gray.  
*"WOW US"* by Warren Macy.  
And much more...

*Newsletter of the Putnam County Museum*

209 West Liberty Street, Greencastle, IN

765.653.8419; pcmuseum@crtc.com

## *From the Director...*

The Museum is catching the eye of folks beyond our county's borders. In December, the Museum received a \$5,000 grant from The Clowes Fund as part of its Matching Grants Program for Members and Directors. The Clowes Fund is a family foundation established in 1952, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The foundation makes grants in Indianapolis, Seattle, and northern New England to support human services, education and the arts. And in January, the Cinergy Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PSI Energy Inc., granted the Museum \$1,000 for professional planning and oversight of the renovations in our new home. Each year the Cinergy Foundation reinvests a portion of the pretax profits of its regulated operating companies in the communities it serves. In our new space at 1105 N. Jackson Street, the Museum will become even more visible to people in and out of the county.



One of the long-term results of relocating the Museum to the renovated space on US Highway 231 is the creation of a northern gateway to Greencastle. By transforming a formerly vacant retail space into a cultural community space, the Museum will have a positive impact on the economic development of Greencastle and improve the quality of life in the county. The long-term exterior improvements planned for the space (native wildflowers and trees, as well as historic structures and equipment) will be one step toward beautifying the area and creating a welcoming corridor on the north side of Greencastle. The Museum will serve to anchor the Putnam County community to its agricultural and manufacturing roots, as the community discovers how the interaction of the past and the present will translate into a hopeful and proud future.

With eyes caught in the county and out, let's bend the ears of folks within the county. Over the next few months, we'll be raising funds, building walls, packing and moving our collections, conducting focus groups, and preparing for new exhibits. There are many ways you can help, but the easiest and most effective, is to spread the word about our exciting plans to your friends and neighbors. Tell them why you support the Museum. Encourage them to visit during our expanded hours: Tuesday - Friday, 1 - 4 pm, Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm, or by appointment. And explain how they, like you, can enjoy the benefits of membership in the Putnam County Museum.

Stacy Klingler  
*Museum Director*