

Alton Museum of History and Art, Inc.

Spring 2010

News & Views

2809 College Avenue, Alton, Illinois 62002

618-462-2763

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www.altonmuseum.com

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RECENT MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

A model of "Idlewild" paddle-wheeler, formerly known as Avalon, now known as "Belle of Louisville", donated by model builder, EUGENE KOEHNE

A Bull Shark Jaw donated by STEVE BOLLINI - who also prepared the wonderful Taxidermy Exhibit

A Scrapbook of Clarence E. & Doris Lewis and the Telegraph article "Firemen Die in Arson Fire" - Donated by SUE LEWIS

Picture of Alton Fire Department Hose # 2 Lucas Pfeiffenberger, Mayor of Alton - Donated by LOVELLE GIBSON

Models - A tugboat with 15 barges, The Spirit of St. Louis Airplane, The Robert E. Lee Side Wheeler, The King of the Mississippi Side Wheeler, a framed Print of "Belle of Alton" and 2 display Cases - Donated by WILLIAM A. ALLEN

REMINDER:

*AMHA Annual
Membership*

Meeting

April 14, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Loomis Hall

New Life Members

Our new Life Members are Felicia Fleishman of St. Louis and Steven & Bette Paul of Fosterburg, who gave each other unique anniversary presents {Life Membership in the museum.} It is our pleasure to have you as life members!

Welcome!

Our Past

Your museum was founded in 1971 by Margaret Davis Weber and Mabel Charlene Gill, interested in space for Art Exhibits and conserving and portraying the history of the Riverbend area. Margaret Weber was the first President. Charlene Gill was the first Vice-President.

Herbert E. Wagenfeldt was first Treasurer. Norma Miller, Douglas R. Miller and Robert R. Hinthorne were also on the board.

Meetings were held at the Godfrey Chapel and the Alton Chamber of Commerce until quarters were found in the two buildings east of the Telegraph.

"History outlives those who would destroy it." ...anonymous



Friday Night at the Museum

The very popular "Friday Night at the Museum" will return on April 9, 2010 with a program on the HISTORY OF MEDICAL CARE AND INSURANCE. The event will be held in the GRACE MONROE CLASSROOM, Loomis Hall, 2809 College Avenue, Alton, Illinois, 6:30 p.m.

Friday Night at the Museum has proven to be popular for history and art fans. Everyone has a good time and enjoys the brownies and other refreshments.

On May 14, 2010 the program is TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, a study of BLACK AIRMEN in WW 11, by Thomas Raglin

A door charge for non-members of \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12.

For information call (618)462-2763

John Langley
Secretary

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO

**The Madison County Arts Council
Illinois Arts Council
The Alton Foundation
The Alton Community Service League**

**For their continued support of
Alton Museum of History & Art**



Miles Davis Jazz Festival Saturday, August 14th, 2010

The Commons
Lewis and Clark
Community College,
Godfrey, Illinois
12:00 pm

HEADLINERS:
*Michael Anthony Fitzgerald
& Brian Williams*

The Howard Neal Band
will honor LUTHER INGRAM
and his music.

The Miles Davis Jazz Festival
Steering Committee and
Alton Museum of History &
Art are proud to announce
the Fifth Annual Jazz
Celebration to honor and
perform, the music of the
internationally recognized
giant of the Jazz art form,
MILES DAVIS.

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS
ADVANCE \$20.00
DAY OF / AT GATE \$25.00

IN MEMORIAM

Lorraine Kaiser
2112 Milnor Avenue, Alton

BORN: June 13, 1912
DIED: January 29, 2010

Robert Yancey
723 Lafayette, Godfrey
BORN: March 3, 1925
DIED: March 16, 2010

Alton Area Historical Society

The Alton Area Historical Society was an independent, non-profit, membership organization with the goal of promoting the history of Alton. In the beginning, the organization met primarily in churches. Later, they rented space from the Alton Museum of History & Art.

The membership included several who volunteered to do research in St. Louis and Hayner Public Library. The Historical Society was paid a small fee to do historical and genealogy research, for individuals in the Alton Community.

The organization maintained an obituary collection and clippings about Alton.

Educational programs were given regularly, promoting interest in preservation of matters relating to the history of Alton. Programs included culture, heritage, teaching manners, tea parties and showcasing collections on loan from local residents, such as an old fashioned valentine exhibit of Betty Close.

The society was proud of Alton's rich local heritage and was responsible for reprinting several historical publications.

Mr. & Mrs. Lemp, Maitland & Irene Timmermiere and Lester Meyer were involved for many years.

Unfortunately, the Alton Area Historical Society, like many other organizations has ceased to exist, due to decline in membership. In 2004, with only four elderly ladies paying dues, the organization was no longer able to maintain itself and ceased operation.

The treasurer, Ruth Ash attended an annual meeting of the Alton Museum and presented to them the holdings of the AAHS. The museum has continued the collection of Obituaries from The Telegraph.

Sesquicentennial of Civil War

An exhibit on the Civil War Prison is planned by the museum. The Civil War Transfer of Arms and Ammunition from the St. Louis Arsenal to the Alton Wharf will be the subject matter of another exhibit.

Alton Museum's Financial Need for Koenig House Repairs

The Alton Museum of History and Art, collects, preserves, and commemorates with exhibits, the history of the River Bend from 1673 (when Marquette and Joliet sailed down the Mississippi along the bluffs) to the present time.

The museum is not supported by state, federal, county or township funds and has been self-supporting since its inception, July 21, 1971.

In 1987, Corida Koenig Hanna donated her family home to the museum in memory of her father, Christian Koenig. As a German immigrant with a good education, he supervised the early glass blowing department of Owens Illinois Glass Company (which became the largest hollow glass plant in the world.) This house is just two blocks away from the Turnverein (their social club.) Mr. Koenig hired the architect Lucas Pfeiffenberger to build his home in 1897. Mr. Pfeiffenberger was known as one of the best architects in the Midwest. The museum has decorated the Koenig House with the furniture that came with the house. It replicates a German home in the Victorian era.

The Koenig House at the present time is not available for school tours because of lack of museum volunteers.

The Koenigs were a musical family and they had a "Sunday" piano in their parlor and an "Everyday" practice piano in their sitting room. They are on display in the Koenig House.

The yard has grapes of the old variety used by Mr. Koenig to make wine (which he chilled in the basement.)

The city of Alton has named the Koenig house on their City Register of Historical Places.

Commemoration of War of 1812

The Alton Museum has joined with the Illinois Bicentennial Committee and plans to concentrate on the incident called the Wood River Massacre with a booklet, an exhibit in the museum and a commemoration at the 20 foot obelisk on Fosterburg Road. Descendants of the Moore, Bates and Reagan families are to be invited along with the general public.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



ALTON MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART, INC

2809 College Avenue, Alton, IL 62002
(618) 462-2763

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

- Youth\$5
- Senior.....\$20
- Active (Single).....\$25
- Family.....\$30
- History Lover.....\$40
- Patron of the Arts...\$50
- Business.....\$100
- Life.....\$1,000
- Benefactor.....\$5,000

Donation _____

Willing to work as a volunteer

Have special interest/knowledge

Historical items in possession

Donate to the museum today – don't forget it's a tax deduction!

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.altonmuseum.com

Check out our new Facebook page!

WISH LIST

- Newsletter Sponsor / Printer
- Printer Cartridge 78 – 45 Color & Black Ink
- Canon Toner Cartridge PC 850
- Copy Paper
- Postage Stamps – 44 Cents
- Manila Office Folders
- Packing Boxes – size copy paper comes in
- Small Shade Tent
- New Copy Machine
- Updated bathroom in Loomis Hall
- Repair for Wadlow Birth Home

(Donations toward larger projects are gratefully accepted in any amount)

**THE PIASA BIRD
COLORING & ACTIVITY BOOK**

By Harold Gill

Published by Alton Museum of History & Art, this is a 53 page “fun” activity for adults, as well as children. The book includes the story of the Piasa Bird. Only \$5.00, including tax, sold only in the museum Gift Shop.

BOY GIANT

**The Story of Robert Wadlow
The World's Tallest Man
By Dan Brannan, Executive Editor
The Telegraph**

“I was the apple of his eye. What he didn't know was he was the apple of mine.” – Harold Wadlow Jr.

For Sale in the Gift Shop - \$21.55 includes tax

GIFT SHOP

Looking for that special gift for someone?
Check out the Alton Museum's gift shop at Loomis Hall on SIUE Dental School Campus. The gift shop is open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. All funds support the Alton Museum.