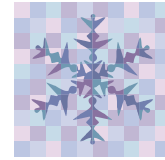


St. Albans

Historical Society

Newsletter - Winter 2010-2011



February 13 Meeting:

Our next meeting will Sunday, February 13 at 2:00 pm. Don Shearer of St. Albans will share his POW experiences from WWII.

The 6rd Annual St. Albans Founder's Day will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 10-4 pm on old Main Street. It was moved to the Spring last year and was quite successful. Numerous activities are planned with a theme of the Civil War in the St. Albans area as the nation remembers its sesquientennial. The Founder's Day Committee meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the *Village Sampler* and your attendance is needed to help with this Historical Society event..

St. Albans Historical Society - 2011 Meeting Dates

All meetings are at the Wm. P. Burdette Memorial Building at 404, 4th Ave. - 2:00 p.m. (Regular meetings are on 2nd *Sundays* unless otherwise stated)

February 13, 2011 - Regular Meeting
February 24, 2011 - History Day at Capitol (Thursday)

April 10, 2011 - Regular Meeting

May 14, 2011 - Founder's Day

June 12, 2011 - Sunday Picnic, 2 p.m. at Morgan's Kitchen

June . August - Morgan's Kitchen Open House, Sunday, 2-4 pm

June . Historical Society Building Open House, Saturday, 11-2 pm

September 11, 2011 - Regular Meeting

October 8, 2011 - Morgan's Kitchen Fall Festival

October 15-16, 22-23, 2011 - Fall Train Open House at Bldg. (8-9 am)

November 13, 2011 - Regular Meeting

December 3, 2011 - Christmas Homes Tour, Saturday, 6 - 9 p.m.

2011 History Day at the Capitol:

This is always a fun and rewarding event as nearly 100 various Historical Societies throughout the state have tables and presentations in the Capitol Rotunda and halls. This year's event is on February 24, (Thursday) from 9 . 3 p.m.. We will have a table and display there with various books and vintage photographs. We need some volunteers to help us that day to help at the table from either 9 . noon; noon to 3 p.m. .or for the entire day. See Neil Richardson.

Christmas Homes Tour

The 18th Annual Christmas Historical Homes Tour was held on Saturday, December 4. Although cold and snowy we still managed to make \$175

Dues:

Your 2011 dues are due at this time. Make a check out and give to Jane Milam. \$7.00 individual and \$10 for a family. Our new year begins with the February meeting.

New Officers:

The election of officers was held during the September meeting. Our President is Bill Dean and Vice President of Special Events and Fund-raising is Neil Richardson and Treasurer is Jane Milam (2 yr. terms - all). Remaining officers with another year to serve are: Richard Milam, Vice President and Ellen Mills-Pauley, Secretary.

Rosie the Riveter Presentation:

On Saturday November 20 at West Virginia State University, the St. Albans Historical Society had a display table at *Thanks to the Rosies*+presentation to recognize 11 local Rosie the Riveters. Two St. Albans Rosies are: Sally Hawley and Q.D. Woods.

Past WV History Heros .

February 24 , 2011 - History Day at Capitol

- 1997 William %Bill+Wintz
- 2000 Carol Graley
- 2001 William %Bill+Williams
- 2003 Pauline Morgan
- 2004 Neil Richardson
- 2005 None
- 2006 Margaret Williams
- 2007 Margaret Bassitt
- 2008 Bettie Burdette
- 2009 Bill Dean
- 2010 Ellen Mills Pauley

Visit our web site at:

<http://stalbanhistory.com>

U.S. Senator Robert Byrd – Mountain Fiddler

(This is from producer Berry Possø comments about recording the Blue Grass album by the same name with Robert Byrd in 1977).

On the face of it, this was a typical production assignment. The artist was an accomplished musician and passionate about playing; the tunes were steeped in the repertoire of a traditional mountain fiddler; the session players were all musicians I had worked with on previous recordings. And yet there was absolutely nothing typical or routine about this project - not the artist, not the rehearsals, not the recording sessions, not the publicity, none of it was like anything I had experienced before. Clearly, it was Robert Byrd, then Majority Leader of the US Senate, who made this project so extraordinary.

My introduction to Senator Byrd was a little different than the more typical backstage club and festival settings favored by many musicians for production meetings. We met for lunch in the Senate Majority Leader's suite. Senator Byrd came in with two bulging briefcases which he placed squarely on the center of an enormous conference table. This was around the time of the Panama Canal treaty debate and I was wildly imagining these cases contained critical documents which would help decide the issue. Just then a formally attired waiter brought me a bowl of lobster bisque on fine white china, while Senator Byrd reached into one of the cases and pulled out a brown paper sack containing a bologna sandwich made by Erma, his wife of over 40 years back in 1977. Senator Byrd then reached for the second case, and

Cont...

proceeded to pull out a portable cassette tape and about a dozen home practice tapes he made for this occasion. So much for being privy to affairs of state! We ate a little and talked a lot and, as the conversation progressed, I could feel his energy and enthusiasm accelerate. At the same time, listening and talking about music clearly put him at easeí and me as well.

With song selection well underway, my first real task was to find a group of supportive musicians. Senator Byrd was used to playing by himself which is a quite different experience than playing regularly in a group, with each musician reacting to the timing nuances of the others. With that in mind, it was easy to select Doyle Lawson, a consummate musician who would do here what he has done for his own band-provide unflappable leadership. James Bailey and Spider Gilliam were also brought on board. These musicians were entirely comfortable with one another and, over a short period of intense time, Senator Byrd's solitary style gently melded into a cohesive ensemble. It was remarkable to watch them work together like most musicians, these session players liked to spend some time limbering up, but not too much before recording to avoid losing one's creative "edge." Not so with the Senator. The more they rehearsed the more Senator Byrd wanted to rehearse. He just loved to play. Senator Byrd really never stopped practicing. We usually talked in the evenings and weekends so as to not disrupt the affairs of the office. He did have an uncanny knack for calling just at the highlight of a movie or the end of a close ball game. "Hello Barry, got a moment" he would say, "I've been working on something" and then go on to play on the phone for the next 30 minutes.

The last decision before recording, I thought would be the easiest one. I had previously recorded a number of projects at Bias Studios and it was close by in Falls Church, Virginia. However, on a pre-recording visit to the studio, it became quickly evident that with the studio's complex jangle of equipment and isolation booths, this would not be comfortable turf for the Senator who was used to playing in more familiar surroundings. We decided to record remotely from his own office, with engineer

U.S. Senator Robert Byrd – Mountain Fiddler Cont.

Bill McElroy building a special stripped down console to keep everything simple and live. All the musicians played together in a big circle just as they would have at home.

When "Mountain Fiddler" was released in the summer of 1977, the publicity was immediate and substantial, not surprising when your artist is a member of the U.S. Senate. For a record signing event at Discount Books around Dupont Circle in Washington, the place was mobbed and traffic was tied up all around the store. Local and national media were in full attendance. I recall talking to CBS' Bob Schieffer there about the event. Later, I received a call from newscaster Roger Mudd, wanting to know all about Byrd's venture into the music world.

I can tell you this about Senator Byrd. He is as passionate about his music as he is about the business of the U.S. Senate. Indeed, as I grew to know the man behind the position, I came to understand that his music and his fiddling offered a kind of joyful balance to the enormous pressures of serving the public as Senator and Majority Leader. He made this recording for the sheer joy of doing what he loves, and it shows.

WV Capitol:

The Capitol of West Virginia has been ranked among the five most beautiful state capitols in the nation. It is topped with a 293-foot gold dome that is five feet higher than the dome of the nation's capitol in Washington DC. The godly building has over the west wing entrance (from left) the heads of Vesta (goddess of heart and family), Neptune (god who controls the rivers) and Ceres (goddess of agriculture); over the east wing entrance are (again from left) Mercury (who presides over commerce), Vulcan (celestial artist and architect) and Minerva (goddess of wisdom). Walls of the west wing are of pink marble. On the ceiling are paintings of women carrying leafy branches and sheaves of wheat. Similar artwork graces the east wing ceiling, with likenesses of native trees. The Hall of Governors has portraits and biographical sketches of the state's chief executives. Black and gold Belgian marble columns, capped by Italian alabaster urns, guard the corridors to the legislative foyers.

WV Capitol: cont.

Statuary around the landscaped grounds honors West Virginians for extraordinary contributions to the state and nation. (Whatever may be said of other state capitols, this likely is the only one with statues of both Abraham Lincoln and Stonewall Jackson).

Some things you might have never known about Parkersburg :

- The first economic boom for the region came with the drilling of oil and gas wells in West Virginia
- The Parkersburg Rig & Reel Company manufactured oil field equipment that could be found in petroleum producing centers throughout the world.
- Parkersburg could be called the "Savings Bond Capital of America ." Since 1957, when the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Public Debt was moved here, every U.S. Savings Bond bought or redeemed has passed through the Parkersburg office for processing.
- Early in 1862 the first free school south of the Mason-Dixon Line for African-American children was opened in Parkersburg. It was founded by seven Black men who wished to provide an education for their children. They named the facility Sumner School .
- The Parkersburg Post Office was one of the first in the country to offer free city mail delivery beginning in 1887.
- Floating soap, later sold by Proctor & Gamble as 'Ivory,' was first developed at Parkersburg 's Upson Oil & Soap Works, also the home of the world-famous French Process Laundry Soap.
- The stretch of the Ohio River between Blennerhassett Island and Parkersburg has long been regarded by river men as one of the most dangerous sections of the entire river to maneuver a craft through due to its sharp bend. So many boats sank there that it gained the dubious title "Graveyard of the Ohio"
- Know any unusual facts about St. Albans?
Send to: stalbanhistory1@aol.com

Officers for 2010 / 2011:

Bill Dean. President 727-9372

Richard Milam - Vice President 727-4978

Neil Richardson . Vice President Fund Raising & Special Events
727-5972

Ellen Mills-Pauley . Secretary 757-7189

Jane Milam . Treasurer 727-4978

Website: <http://stalbanshistory.com>

What Kind of Jobs Did St. Albans Residents Hold in 1860?

1860 Census of Kanawha County, West Virginia gave this report of occupations...

Occupations of Coalsmouth residents in 1860 showed they had many craftsmen. Some were blacksmiths, clerks, cooks, school teachers, ship masters, sawyers, stone masons, saddlers, shoemakers, wagon masters, waiters, wheelwright, merchants, landlords, painters, grocers, gunsmiths, lumbermen, lock keeper, civil engineers, public works, laborers, farmers, boatmen, carpenters, carriage makers, laundress, ministers, Saddle makers, constables, coopers, millers, livery stable owners, inn keepers, hotel owners, bakers, doctors, lawyers, store keepers, gentlemen, tavern owners, stage coach drivers, mail carriers.

Different states and nationalities represented in Coalsmouth were Ohio, VA, KY, NY, PA, Ireland, Bavaria, Wartonburg, LA, NC, CN NJ, VT, MA, England, Germany and Russia.

- Carol Sue Graley

St. Albans Historical Society
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