

# MUSEUM NOTES WINTER 2019

Fort Smith Museum of History

Winter 2019

## Pardi Gras 2019

The Fort Smith Museum of History presents "Pardi Gras!" The largest annual fundraiser for the "continuously operating since 1910" museum! Help support a good cause, preserving Fort Smith history, and have a great time! February 23 at the Fort Smith Convention Center.

The evening begins at 6:00 pm with cocktails and music followed by an excellent Cajun dinner. Next up-auctions and raffles including the Premier Raffle, a \$2,000 Shopping Spree from Newton's Jewelers. Dancing to the music of Memphis Soul follows.



*New Venue! Fabulous Band!  
Fine Cajun Cuisine!  
Auctions! Raffles!*

*Laisser les bons temps rouler!*

*\*Krewe-an organization that puts on a parade and/or ball for the Carnival season. The term is best known for its association with New Orleans Mardi Gras.*

Memphis Soul is a high-energy eight-piece group showcasing a distinctive sound and style featuring a solid rhythm section, fiery horns, and dynamic male and female vocalists. Actively performing since 2004, Memphis Soul presents very talented and experienced musicians. Check out the band: <https://www.memphisourdallas.com/music-sample>

The evening of good food, fabulous music and much fun is \$125 per person. A table for eight is \$1,000. A Krewe\* sponsorship is available for \$2,000 (extra amenities included).

Tickets: Online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pardi-gras-tickets-54172477338>

Call: 479-783-7841. Send a check: Fort Smith Museum of History, 320 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72901. Email for additional details: [info@fortsmithmuseum.com](mailto:info@fortsmithmuseum.com)

Thank you Krewe\* Sponsors: First National Bank, Mercy, Sodie's, Hank and Deana Hankins, ArcBest.

## Upcoming Events

- *Bee Bumble and the Stingers* New exhibit in the Boyd Gallery Through March 2019
- Pardi Gras! February 23 Convention Center
- May 1-31 *Motorcycle Memories* Exhibit and Programs

*Laisser les bons temps rouler!*

*Let the good times roll!*

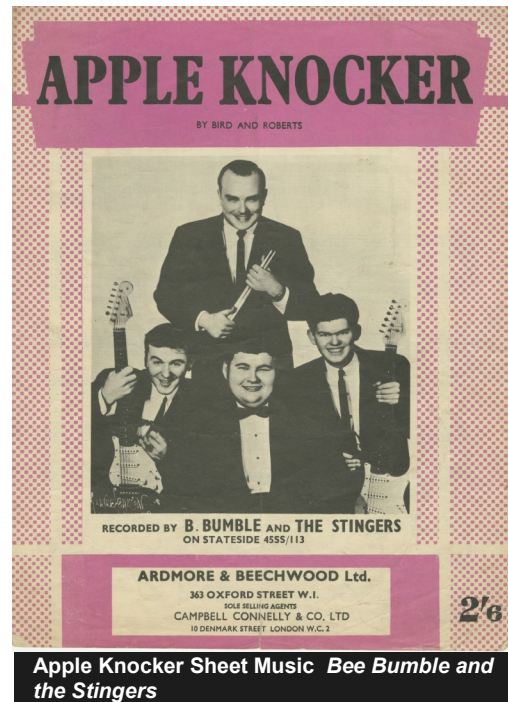
## Bee Bumble and the Stingers

A new exhibit in the Boyd Gallery will feature a wonderful collection of *Bee Bumble and the Stingers* memorabilia loaned by museum volunteer Mark Potter.

Bee Bumble and the Stingers were a Fort Smith based band, headed by R. C. Gamble, known for “taking classical songs and messing them up.” “Flight of the Bumble Bee” and “Nutcracker Suite” became hits as “Bumble Boogie” and “Nut Rocker.” After “Nut Rocker” hit number one in England, Bee Bumble and the Stingers headed overseas for their first tour. The Stingers opening act at The Cavern in Liverpool was a small quartet called “the Beatles.” How cool is that!

After the tour, Bee Bumble and the Stingers returned home to Arkansas, going their separate ways, but continuing in music. Eventually, R. C. Gamble opened a venue, The Beehive, which became a well known Fort Smith hot spot, giving bands and members of Bee Bumble and the Stingers a permanent place to play.

The exhibit includes an original hand painted poster, 45 records, sheet music and much more. Through March.



Apple Knocker Sheet Music *Bee Bumble and the Stingers*

**Thank you Fort Smith Fire Department** for moving the mirrors for the Ballman Furniture exhibit and the block of sidewalk that serves as a memorial to Vick Ellig, first Fort Smith soldier to die in WWI.



Fort Smith Fire Department move Ballman and Vick Ellig artifacts. Thank you!



Chanson and Cadynce Turner

## Children's Day at the Museum

Children's Day on December 1 was great fun! Children made a “Build a Pal” stuffed animal, wrote a letter to Santa and decorated cookies and ornaments. Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand for pictures. Children's Day was such fun that we plan to make it an annual event.

## Board of Trustees

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## Staff

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Grace Devero  
Museum Assistant

Calvin Evans  
Museum Assistant

## Volunteers

Thank you for the programs  
for students and tour groups!

Floyd and Sue Robison  
Carl Riggins  
Dr. Michael Linimon  
Danny Hammond

## New and Renewed Members

Rick and Mary Llew Anders  
Gimo and Candy Berry  
Morgan and Margaret Bryant  
Gary and Jo Ann Campbell  
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**Please remember the Museum for Honorariums, Memorials and Bequests.**

## Donations

### In Honor of Drew Linder

Linda Udouj

### In Memory of Bill Neumeier

Lou and Leisa Gramlich  
Julie Hamilton

### In Memory of Betty Bumpers

Lou and Leisa Gramlich

Arkansas Poly, Inc.  
Jere and Robert Barker  
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Alline and C. C. Davis Charitable  
Foundation

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William Thomas Hennessey and  
May Pittman Hennessey  
Charitable Foundation

Leisa's Birthday Fundraiser-\$1,000

### Capital Campaign

Gray and Jo Ann Campbell  
Jim Miller  
Carl Riggins

### In Memory of Betty Bumpers

Amy and Gary Grimes

### In Memory of Mary Beth Phillips

Marilyn and Charles Click

**Fort Smith Museum of History, 320 Rogers Ave. Fort Smith, AR 72901**  
**[www.fortsmithmuseum.org](http://www.fortsmithmuseum.org) [info@fortsmithmuseum.com](mailto:info@fortsmithmuseum.com)**



## Local Color Radio Hour, Volume 5

The **LOCAL COLOR RADIO HOUR**, Volume 5 will be presented on Sat., Feb. 9th at William O. Darby Junior High School's historic Auditorium at 7pm, 616 North 14th Street, Fort Smith, AR. Doors open at 6pm. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the door the evening of the performance, or beginning Jan. 9th at the Fort Smith Museum of History or through EventBrite. Proceeds from this performance go to the Fort Smith Museum of History.

This fifth installment of the LCRH showcases local history, culture, and live music, including the SHS Jazz Band, Joe Hardin, Maggie Jones, The Numskulls (Dan Maher, Steve Kite, Matt McCoy, and Gary Udouj, Jr.), and others. Darby Jr. High Students are also part of this program. Leisa Gramlich, Executive Director of the Fort Smith Museum of History, and Caroline Speir, Exhibit Designer, are returning as well, as they present what is "On Display" at the Museum, and discuss some "Little Known Facts" about Darby, Alphonso Trent, and others.

Audiences will also enjoy sketches, commercials, and a format similar to the golden age of radio as the cast spotlights Fort Smith's rich culture, people, and places in this fifth show from the group. The photos attached are courtesy of Brandon Chase Goldsmith (the first two photos) and myself (for the third one). The Local Color Radio Hour is produced by Spinnin' 'Round Productions and Grand Finale Productions and has performed shows in Fort Smith, Van Buren, and Greenwood. Sponsors of the LCRH include the Fort Smith Museum of History and the South Sebastian County Historical Society.

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/local-color-radio-hour-tickets-54377827546>

[differentkjones.wixsite.com/lcrh](http://differentkjones.wixsite.com/lcrh)