



320 Rogers Avenue
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MUSEUM NOTES

WINTER 2015

MARDI GRAS 2015

LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER!

The "Best Party in Town!" is coming soon! Friday, February 13, 2015, join the fun at IC Church Parish Hall. As the largest annual fundraiser, Mardi Gras is extremely important to the financial stability of the museum. The party is eagerly anticipated by members, supporters and community leaders. Get a jump on Valentine's Day celebrations and dare to have fun on



SAVE THE DATE



MARDI GRAS 2015
FRIDAY, FEB 13

Fort Smith Museum of History

THE BEST PARTY IN TOWN!

Friday the 13th! The evening begins at 6:00 pm with cocktails and the music of the Don Baily Jazz Combo, a Cajun dinner catered by Emmy's, the always exciting live auction and dancing to the music of Tom Ware, Gary Hutchison and Friends. Tables sell for \$750 or a premium table for \$850 (premium tables include an authentic King Cake baked by our curator, Connie Manning). Individual tickets are \$75. Call the museum or a board member to purchase a table or ticket.

Let the good times roll!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

The remodeled rest rooms are almost complete! Be sure to check out the museum's amazing new custom rest rooms. Thank you to our carpenter Monte Smith for excellent work and to long time museum supporter



The alcove at the entrance to the rest rooms features reproductions of post cards of Electric Park.

Phil White for overseeing the project. Museum member Connie Lichty-Smith donated 1920's era light fixtures. Many materials from the building were repurposed, saving dollars. Thank you to our donors for making the project possible!

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

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Gimo and Candy Berry
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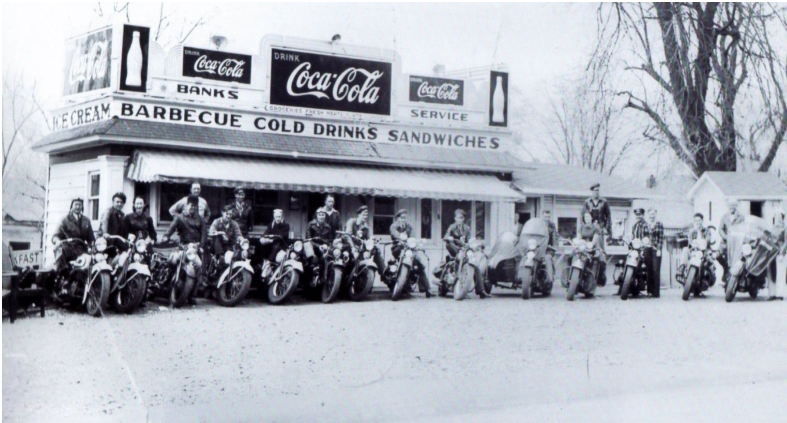
IN MEMORY OF JANE DILLS MORGAN
Donna Wintory

IN MEMORY OF SONDRAGRIFFIN FOTI
Donna Wintory

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!

The support of our loyal members and donors enables the Fort Smith Museum of History to continue to meet our mission to acquire, preserve, exhibit and interpret objects of historical significance relevant to the founding and growth of Fort Smith and the region.

MOTORCYCLE MEMORIES



**A LARGE GROUP OF MOTORCYCLISTS GATHERS OUTSIDE
A LOCAL RESTAURANT IN THE 1940's.**
(Photograph courtesy of Robert Winters).

To coincide with the Steel Horse Motorcycle Rally, May 1 & 2, 2015, the popular exhibit, *Motorcycle Memories*, will open in the Boyd Gallery on April 30. The exhibition, which was first presented in 2008, features vintage motorcycles and photographs exploring the “art of the motorcycle” in Fort Smith and the region from the 1940’s through present day. Fort Smith has an historical association with motorcycle culture. Learn about the people and places that put the region on the map for motorcyclists.

Quin Winter’s Bike shop on Towson Avenue was the nexus of motorcycle culture in Fort Smith from 1939 until 1975. His sons, Leroy and Robert Winters, gained national fame for their accomplishments in the field of motorcycle racing. In 1940, Fort Smithian Ernie Gann became a charter member of the “Motor Maids,” a national organization of female motorcyclists. The annual “Razorback Run,” a one hundred fifty mile round trip ride from Fort Smith to White Rock Mountain near Mulberry, Arkansas drew motorcycle enthusiasts from a regional area from 1952 to 1955. Otis Spiker played a vital role in the area cycling culture.

Proceeds from the non-profit Steel Horse Motorcycle Rally will be donated to local charities through an application process. The museum submitted an application for funding to defray exhibition costs.

“Motorcycle Memories” is designed to unite the “art of the motorcycle” with the generation of Americans that enjoy a lifestyle peculiar to the American mainstream. The exhibit will strive to educate future generations about a fascinating spectrum of Americana.

NEEDED: CITY DIRECTORIES ARKANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Help us strengthen our research collection! The museum is requesting donations of Fort Smith city directories and issues of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* to fill gaps in the research collection. The city directories are invaluable assets for researchers, providing important information about businesses and individuals. The *Quarterlies* are full of fascinating stories of Arkansas

history, including Fort Smith and regional history. Please consider donating any copies you may have that are in good condition. The research library is an important resource, utilized by staff, students and the community. Call 479-783-7841 to see if you have a copy that will help strengthen our collection.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

**Lugene Armstrong
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WHERE TO PAST COMES TO LIFE!



SAVE THE DATE



MARDI GRAS 2015
FRIDAY, FEB 13

Fort Smith Museum of History

Thank you Mardi Gras Sponsors!
Green Krewe Sponsor: ArcBest
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Gold Krewe Sponsor: First National Bank

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.