

MUSEUM NOTES

Fort Smith Museum of History

Summer 2015

Capital Campaign Continues

Thank you to all Capital Campaign donors who have contributed to the accomplishment of several major projects: replacement of the freight elevator; modernization of the public restrooms; renovations to the soda fountain; new paint and carpet in the lobby (a new vacuum cleaner is needed) and the replacement of five outdated HVAC units. Thank you to Rheem for the donation of three units and to the Western Arkansas Planning and Development District for awarding a grant through the State of Arkansas General Improvement Fund to replace two units and fund the installation.

Plans for updating the permanent exhibits are progressing as well as plans for a permanent exhibit on broadcast history in Fort Smith and the region, *On the Air*.

During the recent heavy rainfall, water entered through damaged masonry on the west side of the building. A grant was submitted to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to fund the masonry project, but matching dollars are required. Caring for the Atkinson-Williams Warehouse is an ongoing challenge! **Please consider a contribution to enable the museum to continue to meet the goals of the Capital Campaign.**



"The Atkinson-Williams Warehouse is one of the few remaining early warehouses in Fort Smith. The edifice represents a period of prosperity and growth for the city and its major wholesale suppliers. ."

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Application,
1979

Congratulations, Connie!

Curator Connie Manning completed a Master of Library and Information Science with an Archival Studies concentration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Congratulations on this accomplishment.

Connie was selected for a professional development internship with the Smithsonian Libraries assisting with a copyright research project.

Connie's skills bring knowledge that will benefit the Fort Smith Museum of History as we strive to meet our mission in a changing museum environment. With completion of the Conservation Assessment Program and the renovation projects accomplished through the ongoing Capital Campaign, positive changes are in progress for the care of the artifact collection and the historic building.

Upcoming Events

- *Motorcycle Memories*
June 27, 11:00am Program on Fort Smith Motorcycle History. Exhibit continues through August
- 4th of July Crafts for Children, July 4, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Book Signing with Anita Paddock, July 23 4:00 pm
Program at 6:00 pm
- Ice Cream Social, September 6, 2:00-4:00 pm



Walter Davidson, Maldwyn Jones, August Busch, William Harley.

Motorcycle Memories

Program

A program on Fort Smith motorcycle history will be presented during the Riverfront Blues Festival on Saturday, June 27 at 11:00 am. Join us for beer, BBQ and stories of local motorcycle culture. Thank you to Robert Winters for providing the excellent photographs for the program and exhibition. *Motorcycle Memories* will be in place through August 30. ***This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.*** Thank you to Westark Yamaha for a contribution to the project.

Additions to Exhibits

Goldman Hotel

Thank you to Bill England and family for a wonderful addition of artifacts and photographs which have been added to second floor Goldman Hotel exhibit. Included are the desk that was used by John England, a table from the lobby and photographs of Eleanor Roosevelt and Harry Truman visiting the hotel. The highlight is a reproduction of a mural of the hotel lobby painted by John England's granddaughter, Laura England Cunningham.

St. Anne's Academy

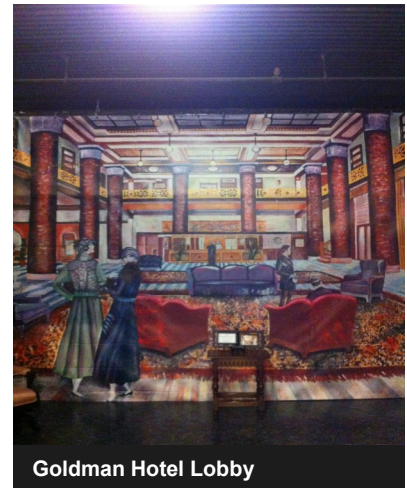
Just in time for the St. Anne's Academy reunion, an exhibit on the Catholic high school in Fort Smith from 1853 until 1973 will be added to the first floor Timeline. Thank you to Steve Wilhelm for providing photographs and memorabilia.

Music History in Fort Smith

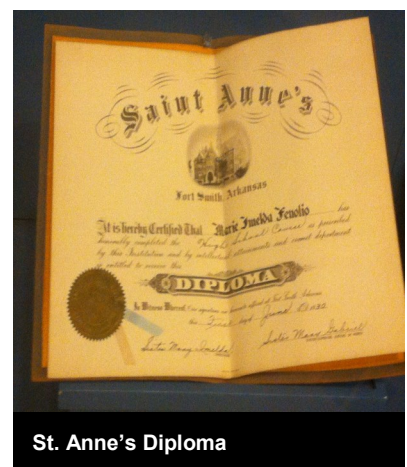
A two-part exhibit exploring the rich history of music in Fort Smith is currently in progress. The first part, covering nineteenth century through 1945 will open in the fall. Part two, 1945-1985, is scheduled for next year. Please contact the museum if you have artifacts or memories to share.

School Tours for the Summer

The museum continues to provide tours and programs for school groups through the summer. Volunteers are always needed! Call or email the museum if you wish to help. Caroline Speir presented programs at Sutton Elementary School for first grade students and at Muldrow School for third grade students. We hope to provide more outreach programs for students unable to visit the museum.



Goldman Hotel Lobby



St. Anne's Diploma

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Remember the museum for honorariums, memorials and bequests.

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Book Signing with Anita Paddock

Blind Rage

Join the Fort Smith Museum of History in welcoming Fort Smith author Anita Paddock for a book signing and program on Thursday, July 23. Ms. Paddock will sign copies of her recently published book, *Blind Rage*, beginning at 4:00 p. m. with a program at 6:00 p. m. She will discuss the research process for the book which is the true story of the 1981 murder of Ruie Ann Park in Van Buren, Arkansas.

Copies of *Blind Rage* will be available for \$15.

Ice Cream Social

Reader's Choice "Best History Event"

The annual Ice Cream Social will be Sunday, September 6, 2:00-4:00 pm. The annual event was selected as the Reader's Choice Best History Event by *E Fort Smith Magazine*. Join us for all you can eat ice cream and build your own sundae from a variety of flavors and toppings. \$5 per person.

4th of July Crafts for Children

Bring the children to the Fort Smith Museum of History for Fourth of July Craft Making. Saturday, July 4, 2015, 1:00p. m. – 3:00 p. m., children and their parents will make a patriotic craft and enjoy refreshments. The event is free with museum admission and open to children twelve years and younger accompanied by a parent. Reservations are requested. Call 479-783-7841 or make a reservation online at fortsmithmuseum.org.