In Memoriam

Vickee Fleming (1945-2019)

Vickee served as a docent at our museum for over three years right up until just three days before her heart surgery in December, from which she did not recover. We will miss her so much. Memorials in her name may be made to the Bella Vista Animal Shelter, the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista, or our own Historical Society. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Bruce and her entire family.
TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020

We thank those of you who have already renewed their membership for 2020. We also comp individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty to donate their time to the museum. At this point, we have only 11 paid individual/family memberships plus 19 comped individual memberships for 2020, so we really need your support for the coming year. Dues are unchanged: $15/year for individuals and $25/year for families. Remember, we are all volunteers so any revenue we receive goes to operating costs. If you have been a corporate sponsor in the past and would like to renew your corporate membership, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and mail it with your check for $50 to the museum. Thank you!

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OPEN HOUSE  SUNDAY OCTOBER 27

The success of our Open House and Grand Opening of the Settler’s Cabin on October 27 went beyond our wildest dreams! We know that there were visitors who accidently slipped by without signing our guest registers, but those who did sign in totaled 266 which far exceeded our goal of 200!

Our big thanks goes to Mayor Christie, who issued a proclamation recognizing October 27, 2019, as “Settler’s Cabin Day”; Mary Jane and Bill Cole who served as host and hostess for the cabin; Suzanne Evans and her crew who provided all the snacks and drinks inside the museum; Dave Martens, the chef who used the open fire pit behind the cabin to cook the chili, jonny cakes and biscuits, and served hot apple cider to go with them; John Bozarth who built the fire pit; Steve Morrow of Allen’s Food Market who served as our sponsor and provided the food for the fire pit cooking; Linda Lloyd of Acorn Realty who provided the apples for the apple bobbing; Barbara Denton and the Cub Scouts who helped with the apple bobbing activity; Jack Kellogg who videotaped the entire afternoon; John Craig who served as our ‘still’ photographer; Melissa Tucker who served as docent in the Wonderland Cave exhibit area; Sara Parnell who provided trash cans for the event; Jill Werner who helped with the fire pit cooking plans, served as Volunteer Coordinator, and manned the gift shop along with Nancy Bumgardner; Bob Fuller who solicited door prizes and helped welcome visitors to the museum, along with Virginia Reynolds; Judi Corn who manned the door prize table; John Flynn and Chuck Pribbernow who served as parking attendants (and Chuck also provided our “Burma Shave” signs to draw extra attention along the highway to our event); and our volunteers who welcomed visitors and gave directions...that group was Diane Schoenbaum, Linda Calhoun, Angie Rader, Linda Lloyd, and Lynette Shepard. We also thank Pat Kirby and the Southern Strings who provided outstanding musical entertainment inside the museum during the afternoon. Pictured below is the cabin in all its glory and on the right, Mary Jane and Bill Cole, who served as cabin hosts during our Open House on October 27. They did a great job!
Recognition during our Open House event was given to Scott & Angie Butler, who donated the cabin to the museum, Connie Barlow and Cindy Cooper, granddaughters of C.C. Cooper (no relation to Cooper Communities), who originally built the cabin in 1912; Jack Kellogg who first found out about the cabin being available and pursued it with the museum; the contractors who did such a good job, including Dave Covey who moved the cabin to the museum grounds, Alvin Murphy who built the concrete block foundation, Tom Scully who covered the foundation with native stone and repaired the chinking inside and outside the cabin walls; Scott Morrison and his crew who built the new front porch, new roof and new fence; and Nick Kendus and Melissa Tucker who spent days preparing the cabin for moving and cleaned it up afterwards. We also thank the guys from The Maintenance Company for their repair work on the walls and doors after the cabin was moved.

Special thanks also goes to the Benton County Historic Preservation Commission, the Bella Vista Foundation, and the POA Charitable Giving Committee who gave us grants for this project, to Cooper Communities who donated the concrete for the foundation, to the anonymous donor who gave us $4,000 to move the cabin, plus many individual donors who gave $100 or more to the fund. For all of them, we offered to put their name on a plaque inside the cabin, which we will order in January. Also we appreciate the work of Dr. David Stahle and his graduate students from the University of Arkansas Geosciences Department, who took core samples from the cabin logs and identified the years that the trees were cut down for the logs (1908-1912) which fit right in with the timeframe in which C.C. Cooper bought the property where the cabin originally was built, at the corner of what is now Highlands Blvd. and Glasgow Drive.

Once the cabin arrived on the museum grounds, our Cabin Committee did an excellent job of finalizing plans on how the cabin would be fixed up and furnished. The Committee members were Jill Werner, John Bozarth, Chuck Pribbernow and Carol Phillips. They solicited donations of period furnishings, and Carol spent many hours sorting through the donations and deciding on the placement of them inside the cabin. We appreciate the many individuals and groups, including the Blowing Springs Questers chapter, who donated items. In fact we had to stop taking donations because of the overwhelming response. We also thank Jill and Steve Werner for donating special refrigerator magnets with a picture of the cabin on them to all of our volunteers and contractors.

Last but not least, we really appreciate the ongoing support from the City of Bella Vista and the Bella Vista POA. We could not do what we are doing without their help. Thanks to all who helped!

Pictured below left are some of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of C.C. and Annis Cooper who attended our Open House. We were so happy they could join us! Below right is Jill Werner who once again brought her popular homemade jams to give away in return for a $5 donation to the museum, shown with customer Linda Flynn.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please put the date of Sunday March 15, 2:00 p.m., on your calendar for our annual membership meeting. That is when we elect Society officers for the coming year, and we always have a special speaker that day. We would really like all of our members to attend!

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THANK YOU LUNCHEON FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our annual luncheon this year was held at the Bella Vista Country Club, with special guests Fire Chief Steve Sims, Police Chief James Graves, and POA Manager Tom Judson (Mayor Christie was invited but had a long standing prior commitment). With volunteers and their spouse or guest, we had nearly 40 people there. This is our way of thanking everyone from those who are docents and/or Board members to those who help in a variety of other critical roles. We couldn’t survive without all of you!

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BELLA VISTA CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

The Bella Vista Civil War Roundtable continues to be a popular event at the museum. The speakers for the monthly meetings are scheduled by Chuck Pribbernow, with the assistance of Dale Phillips and Joe Rainey. Chuck also handles publicity and edits their newsletter “From the Cannon’s Mouth”. The meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., and they have monthly speakers already lined up into 2021! The meetings are open to the public, admission is free.

The fall speakers were Jeff Patrick in October on The Diary of William Miller, Matt Mulheran in November on the Battle of Prairie Grove, and Kerry Jones in November on the USS Cairo. If you would like to get on their newsletter distribution list to be informed of future speakers, contact Chuck Pribbernow at cnpribb@yahoo.com.
In honor of our Grand Opening of the Settler’s Cabin in October, our Gift Shop Manager Jill Werner ordered postcards and magnets featuring a picture of the Cabin taken by local photographer Dana Johnson. We continue to stock local honey, made from hives right here in Benton County, which has proven to be very popular. And of course we have a variety of Bella Vista souvenir merchandise including T-shirts, jigsaw puzzles, other postcards, baseball caps, mugs, books, and more. We appreciate all the previously owned merchandise that has been donated to us to sell in the gift shop as a fundraiser for the museum. Come check it all out! We accept cash, checks or debit/credit cards for all purchases.

We have received a new order of Sally & Me books, donated by Constance Waddell, who wrote this book to tell about her childhood growing up in Bella Vista, for which we thank her very much. Constance’s son, Wendel Norton, was the artist for her book. We were saddened by the news that he passed away this summer, and extend our deepest sympathy to Constance and her family.
Dale Phillips volunteered to restart the semi-annual historic sites driving tours this year, which we offer as a fundraiser for the museum. He scheduled this one for December 7, waiting until the leaves were gone so that sites would be more visible. In the above pictures, the tour group poses at their first stop, the Summit Cemetery in the Metfield area, and at their last stop at the Artist Retreat Center, which is inside an old log house built in 1853, located across from Lake Bella Vista on Highway 71. If you are interested in going on a spring tour with Dale, contact him at 812-899-2049.

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LINEBARGER GOLF COURSE

One of the stops added to the historic sites driving tour on December 7 was a look at part of the old nine-hole Linebarger Golf Course which was built alongside Lake Bella Vista in 1921. Back then, there was not a four-lane highway cutting through the valley; rather the road was a two-lane gravel road that ran along close to the hillside (in fact the frontage road where food trucks now sit in front of the Artist Retreat Center was actually the old highway). Golfers had to hit across that road to play two of the holes up on the hill before hitting back down to the valley floor to finish their round.

In preparation for adding this stop to the driving tour, Nick Kendus spent several days clearing the area at the top of the hill that held the tee box for the #5 hole. The picture below shows the 1920’s golfers waiting up on the hill at the #5 tee box, while the golfers down in the valley finish putting on the #5 green.
The round retaining wall of the #5 tee box is shown as it looks today in the picture on the left below. A driveway was created below that wall several years ago. There are additional retaining walls and concrete structures to the right of that round wall, perhaps the remains of a cottage built there in later years. All this stands on the hill just south of the highway billboard sign as shown in the picture on the right below.

The tee box for the #4 hole is still identifiable by the concrete box, shown below, located in the flat area a short distance south of the food trucks that stand along the frontage road near the Artist Retreat Center. Each tee box had a divided structure like this one, one side of which held water and the other side held sand, so that golfers could build their own tees out of a mixture of sand and water. A similar concrete box is visible alongside the #5 tee box at the top of the hill.
The #4 green was up on the hill, then the golfers crossed the street up there to go to the #5 tee box. The #4 green is shown in the first picture below, looking northeast. Today all that is visible is the old metal sign that marked the green, tucked in among the trees that have all grown up over the past 90+ years, as shown in the second picture below, looking southeast.

All of the property described here consists of lots owned by Troy Parnell, father of our Board member Sara Parnell, and we extend our many thanks to him for letting us have the use of it for our tours.
TEMPORARY ROTATING EXHIBITS

Through the end of January, we have a temporary exhibit of Disney and Circus vintage toys from Bruce Fox’s Fisher-Price collection. He worked for Fisher-Price for 31 years and became their company historian. He did a presentation on December 15 about their toys and his personal collection of them. He was delighted to discover among the audience members a resident of Bella Vista, Lorraine Downing, who told him she made some of the toys he had talked about, when she worked on the Fisher-Price assembly line in Holland, New York, and later in East Aurora, New York, in the late 1950’s-early 1960’s timeframe. In this picture of her, along with her son and daughter-in-law, she is showing Fox some of the toys he had talked about that she made and later bought for herself in the employee store. Bruce’s presentation will be repeated in early April, at which time we plan to have a different selection of his toys on display, with an Easter theme.

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HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT RIORDAN

Several of our volunteers helped man our table at the annual Holiday Bazaar at Riordan on November 9, including those pictured below. Xyta Lucas and Suzanne Evans are on the left, with Jill Werner seated in front of her jars of jam. Jill’s hobby is making a variety of jams and sauces, and the museum has certainly benefitted from her hobby, having received over one thousand dollars in donations this fall!
HOT STOVE LEAGUE MEETING

Attention all baseball fans: To get you through the winter doldrums, please note that we are having another Hot Stove League meeting at the museum on Sunday, January 5, at 2:00 p.m. We will host a talk by Bella Vista resident Dave Armstrong, who has been broadcasting professional and college sports since 1988, including stints with the KC Royals and the Colorado Rockies. He has written a book about his experiences, called “Driving from Here to Wow: Looking at Life Through the Windshield.” We hope you can join us. Free admission.

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PROGRAMS FOR GROUPS IN BELLA VISTA

Volunteers from the museum are available to do presentations to groups who have an interest in hearing about Bella Vista history. Groups are welcome to schedule a program at the museum or have a speaker come to their location of choice. If your group is interested, leave a message at the museum and one of us will get back to you. Dale Phillips did a program for Rotary this fall about the Bella Vista Civil War Roundtable, and along with his wife Carol Phillips spoke to them another time about the Settler’s Cabin. Dale also spoke at two Fly Tyers meetings, once to talk about the Civil War Roundtable and once about the Settler’s Cabin. Xyta Lucas, pictured below, spoke to Kiwanis about the Settler’s Cabin in October.

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BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

A new exhibit now in the Cooper Room features the Bella Vista Bluebird Society, established in Bella Vista in 1980. They have donated a bluebird box that stood on the Highlands Golf Course for over 20 years.
McKINNEY/PAISLEY FAMILY DONATIONS

As a follow-up to our story in the previous newsletter about receiving furniture donations from the family of Julia Ann McKinney from one of their old cabins, the Paisley cabin shown in the picture below left, we now have more to report! The cabin was built by the Linebarger Brothers in the 1920’s, but sadly has been declared past saving and is scheduled for demolition. The family, represented by Paisley grandson Tom McKinney, agreed to donate to us the Paisley sign from the front of the cabin. Nick Kendus and helpers removed it from the cabin, after which Nick and his wife Melissa Tucker faced the challenge of mounting it up on the wall in our Harter Room. They did a superb job! Tom McKinney then offered to donate his grandfather’s 1930’s golf clubs and bag to the museum, for which volunteer Jim Lucas built a tall shadow box to display them, shown below on the right. We certainly appreciate everyone’s help on this project!
RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM

Too late to be featured in our last newsletter, our docent Pat Kirby and her friend Mike Cleary presented a delightful program on Sept. 29 called Music: Arkansas Style. Pat even got her husband, Mark Kirby, to play a duet with her, shown below, on pioneer musical instruments, while Mike sat out that particular number. It was Mark’s debut and he said he was quite nervous, but the audience couldn’t tell that from the way he played. All three of them did a great job! Pat is the one who also arranged for the Southern Strings to entertain us with their instrumental music at our Open House.

In early October, members of the Work Detail Team from the Sheriff’s Office helped John Bozarth dig a hole in the ground behind our Settler’s Cabin to create a fire pit for cooking. John then finished off the stone work, getting it all ready for our Open House on Oct. 27.
MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE....

--To our new docents Lee Freeman and Lori Obrenovich, thank you for joining us!

--To Jill Werner for conducting our Open House volunteers meeting on October 20.

--To Chuck Pribbernow for creating our Burma Shave signs that he planted along the highway for our Oct. 27 Open House, reading “Stop your gabbin’, Keep your eyes on the road, When you see our cabin, Stop take off a load, Burma Shave.” They were definitely a hit!

--To Jack Kellogg and John Craig for combining forces with their photography and producing an excellent DVD about our Open House event.

--To Don Lang for donating the ‘shaving horse’ that we now have inside the Settler’s Cabin. It came from an old homestead in Bella Vista and was given to Don Hunt, who died in 2015, but he had given it to Lang, and he has now donated it to our museum in Hunt’s name.

--To Jill Werner and our crew of volunteers who braved the extremely cold weather to man our table at the Flea in the Park event at Blowing Springs on October 12. Our table was inside a tent that never saw the sun, and in that valley it was a long time before the temperature got out of the 30’s!

--To Dianne Bufford of the Springdale office of the state Attorney General, whose November 12 presentation on “Common Scams and How to Avoid Them” offered valuable information.

--To the Pontiac GMC Car Club of Bella Vista who chose the museum as their starting point for an afternoon tour on November 16.

--To Tim Hull, the Village Plumber, for installing a badly needed new sink in our museum kitchen. He donates his labor to us for which we are very appreciative!

--To the Benton County Sheriff’s Office and their Work Detail Teams who provided much needed labor to us several times this fall at the museum and for cleanup at the Beaver and Summit cemeteries.
MEMBERSHIP

We have no paid staff, so all revenue including membership dues and donations is applied to our general operating expenses unless you specify a particular project. We very much appreciate the financial support we receive from the City of Bella Vista, which helps us pay for major operational expenses, but we still need your individual membership dues and donations to help us to continue to improve the museum in every way we possibly can. Thank you!

2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

It is now time to renew your membership for the calendar year or to join us if you have not been a member in the past. If you would like to sign up for 2020, you are welcome to do so at this time. Please mail your check to us, or stop by the museum to pay by cash, check, or credit/debit card.

Bella Vista Historical Society
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Bella Vista, AR 72714

(479) 855-2335
www.bellavistamuseum.org

Date: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________________________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code:________________________________________________________

Telephone: ________________ Email Address: _________________________________

Membership Fee:

Individual $15

Family $25

Corporate $50

Donations in excess of your membership dues are very welcome also.

The Bella Vista Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization and donations qualify as tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!