

Bella Vista Vision

Newsletter of the Bella Vista Historical Society

January – March 2020

Editor: Xyta Lucas

The Bella Vista Historical Society was founded in 1976 in order to “discover, collect, preserve or restore materials and artifacts concerned with our community’s heritage.”



1885 Bella Vista Way, Bella Vista AR 72714 (479) 855-2335

Website: www.bellavistamuseum.org Facebook: Bella Vista Historical Museum



This picture says it all. We hope all of you are staying safe and well during this corona virus pandemic.

MUSEUM CLOSURE

We closed the museum effective March 16, 2020, due to concerns about the corona virus. The museum was first opened in 1985 for the spring, summer and fall, being closed only for the winter months. At our November 2015 Board meeting, we decided to remain open year-round, so this is the first time the museum has been closed for an extended period of time since February 2015. When we reopen, we will resume our normal hours of Wednesday through Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. In the interim, we will check for messages on a regular basis, phone 479-855-2335, or we may be contacted through email, bellavistamuseum@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our annual membership meeting was held on Sunday, March 15, the last day we were open. It was sparsely attended but those who were there enjoyed our speaker, Jim Wozniak, who told very entertaining stories about his years in law enforcement in Bella Vista, from the time he moved here in 1977 until he retired in 2009. He was promoted to Chief Deputy in 1995 and is now a City Council member. He brought with him for display the old New York City police call box that he received as a retirement present, showing all the badges and medals he received over his career in law enforcement.



We had enough attendees to reach a quorum so we held our annual election of officers for the coming twelve months. Xyta Lucas and Dale Phillips will share the office of President and Virginia Reynolds will again serve as Treasurer. Jill Werner is moving to a new role, that of Volunteer Coordinator, and Xyta Lucas will serve as Gift Shop Manager. A big thanks to Virginia Reynolds and Suzanne Evans for providing the refreshments for our meeting.

LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

At the membership meeting, Dale Phillips distributed a document, the purpose of which is to create a long range development plan for the Bella Vista Historical Society. We wish to create a series of objectives and goals that may, or may not, be accomplished over the next 5 years, the next 10 years, and the next 25 years. If you do not have a copy of the document, please just jot down your thoughts and mail them to the Museum or to Dale Phillips, 67 Lancaster Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715. They may also be emailed to him at dkp55@ymail.com (please note that is ymail, not gmail). Thank you for taking time to do this...your opinions will serve as a framework for the future of the Society.

HISTORIC SITES DRIVING TOUR

Our next historic sites driving tour was postponed from Friday, March 20, and will be rescheduled at a future date. If you were not already signed up and are interested in participating, call Dale Phillips at 812-899-2049, for information. It is a fun way to spend an afternoon touring old historic sites in Bella Vista. Part of the old Linebarger golf course alongside Lake Bella Vista has been added to the stops. This is a fundraiser for the museum, and all proceeds go to our operating costs.

HOT STOVE LEAGUE BASEBALL MEETING

Our latest Hot Stove League meeting was held on Sunday, January 5, when baseball fans gathered to hear Bella Vista resident Dave Armstrong, shown below, 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." He told lots of interesting stories about his career, and the crowd loved it. Chuck Pribbernow made the arrangements for this program and worked with the Bella Vista Community TV station for a taping of it.



BELLA VISTA CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Up until now, the Bella Vista Civil War Round Table has continued to meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., but the April 2 Round Table has been cancelled. An announcement will be made at a later date about the May 7 meeting. The speaker for the January 2 meeting was Dale Phillips who spoke on “Ben Butler and the Occupation of New Orleans in the Civil War”. A good-sized enthusiastic crowd has attended every meeting.



The speaker for the February 6 meeting was Greg Mayfield, who spoke on “Standwix Mayfield’s War Claim”, an ancestor who owned the general store in Leetown near Pea Ridge and over 300 acres of surrounding land. The speaker for the March 5 meeting was Brad Davenport, who spoke on “The Last Battle of the Civil War.” If you would like to get on the mailing list to be informed of future speakers, please contact Chuck Pribbernow at cnpribb@yahoo.com.

OLD TIME MOVIES

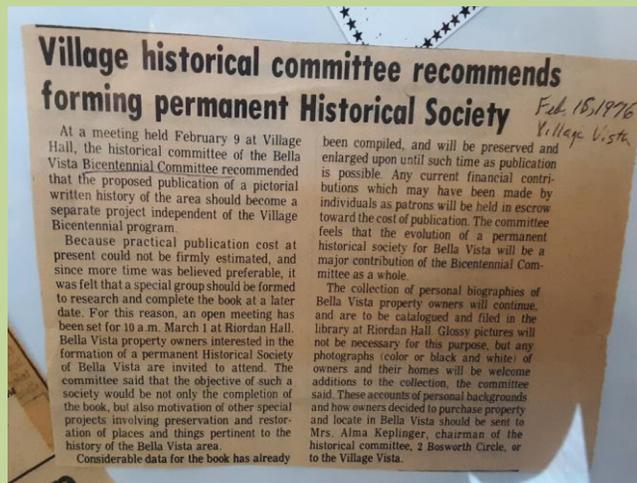
Our most recent Old Time Movie Afternoon was held Sunday afternoon, February 9, when Bill and Mary Jane Cole again showed some of their old movies on his original 1940's Bell & Howell 16 mm film projector and sound system. This time we saw two more Laurel & Hardy movies, "Murder Case" (1930), which featured Laurel & Hardy looking forward to a vast inheritance in a short time, and "Dirty Work" (1933), where they were expert chimney cleaners. Mary Jane again provided popcorn during intermission while Bill changed the reels to prepare for the showing of the second movie. It was a delightful way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

FISHER PRICE TOY EXHIBIT

Our latest Fisher-Price toy exhibit of Easter-themed toys, on loan from Bella Vista resident Bruce Fox, will be available for viewing for an extended period of time after we reopen. An employee of Fisher-Price for over 30 years, Bruce became their company historian. His presentation about the Fisher-Price company set for April 4 will be rescheduled to a later date.

SOCIETY'S ANNIVERSARY

As of March 8, the Bella Vista Historical Society is now 44 years old. It was founded on March 8, 1976, as an outgrowth of the Bella Vista Bicentennial Committee, which was formed in August 1975 to prepare for the 1976 celebration of the nation's Bicentennial. The group was divided into two sections: the Bicentennial Committee and the Historical Committee. At a joint meeting of the two committees on February 9, 1976, it was decided that a permanent Historical Society should be organized. The Society thus came into being on March 8 and was chartered by the State as a non-profit organization on November 19, 1976. Once they got organized, the members began thinking about a location for a museum. They looked at several sites over the next few years, including the log house now called the Artist Retreat Center, and the former caretaker's cottage at Wonderland Cave. None of those panned out, but then they found out that Cooper Communities would let them have the current property on Highway 71 with the restriction that it would revert to Cooper if the museum closed. The Society started a fundraising campaign and raised enough to put together the prefab building that houses the original part of the museum, which opened in 1985. What we now call the Cooper Room was added in 1995, and the Harter Room was added in 2015. The reversionary restriction was removed with a quit claim deed filed in 2002 so the Society now solely owns the property. The Society also gained title in 2015 to the property at the corner of Cunningham Drive and Cedar Crest where the 1927 water tank stands, and in 2018 gained title to the Summit cemetery off Granshire and Aveton in the Metfield area.



OLD WATER TANK DRIVEWAY

In 2016, we began clearing the property around the old 1927 Linebarger water tank at the corner of Cunningham Drive and Cedar Crest so that the tank would be accessible for replacing the roof on it, a task that was superbly handled by one of the Benton County Jail's Work Detail Teams under the supervision of then Deputy Mark Wibert. We knew from old maps that the former route of Sunset Drive cut across along the north side of the water tank, and thought it would make a good driveway for visiting the water tank, so we cleared that route. It was so overgrown that neighbors in the area didn't even realize it was there. Last year we agreed that the Trailblazers could build one of their trails alongside the water tank and widen the driveway to use for trailhead parking. We would like to thank them for rocking the entire length of the driveway, which makes it more accessible for our historic sites driving tours.



HOT WATER HAS ARRIVED!

Our visitors will appreciate this also, but all of our volunteers are extremely happy that after 35 years, we finally have hot water available at the museum. Our thanks to the Village Plumber, Tim Hull, for installing the tank and donating his labor to do so. We also very much appreciate contractor Jeremy Carter of Best Electrical Services who did the wiring for it.

BUTTERFIELD TRAILS QUESTERS

Dale Phillips was the guest speaker at the museum for the January 27 meeting of the Butterfield Trails Questers chapter. He shared personal stories from the Civil War that were very interesting indeed!

NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT AT KINGSLAND

We are thrilled to finally have a traffic light in operation at the intersection of Highway 71 and Kingsland. That will make it so much easier for museum visitors who want to go south on 71 when they leave the museum. Years ago it was debated about a light at either Trafalgar, the next street to the north, or Kingsland, and Trafalgar won, so we thought that they would never consider also putting a light at Kingsland. Our thanks to Mayor Peter Christie and the City of Bella Vista for pushing to make this happen!

CLUB SCRAPBOOKS

The museum continues to be a repository for scrapbooks of organizations still in operation or disbanded in Bella Vista. The latest addition to our collection is from the Kingsdale Squares, a square dance group that recently disbanded. All scrapbooks are available for viewing in the Cooper Room when the museum re-opens.

SETTLER'S CABIN UPDATE

We have had more activity this quarter involving the Settler's Cabin. The plaque containing the names of all the individuals and organizations who gave \$100 or more to the cabin fund is now hanging inside the cabin. Brian Mobley volunteered to put together the rack to hold our firewood out back by the fire pit. Our contractor Scott Morrison came back and added steps to the north and east doors of the cabin, and also made wood-framed screen doors for those two doors. He constructed the steps on the east side to be nearly the width of the cabin so they can be used also for informal seating for programs held back there. In addition, he made and donated a planter box to cover up the mortar patch of the log on the east side that was so badly deteriorated from the 45 years the cabin sat near Lake Avalon. Jack Kellogg and Carol Phillips are in the process of putting together a DVD that gives a tour of the cabin furnishings, which we will make available inside the museum to be viewed by anyone with mobility limitations.



RECENT DONATIONS

We very much appreciate the donations we received this quarter, including the Linebarger plaque from the old Wishing Spring Ranch that stood above McDonald's at the south end of Bella Vista. The plaque was donated by the owner, D.A. Davis, and moved to the museum by a crew headed by Terry Pullen from the POA Golf Maintenance Dept., after volunteers Dustie & Eddie Meads, Nick Kendus, Melissa Tucker, and Xyta Lucas cleared a path to enable the crew to get to the plaque. It is now on display in the front yard of the museum. C.A. Linebarger and D.A.'s dad, Andy Davis, ran cattle on that ranch and the old Rago ranch in the Metfield area using the brands "AC" and "D", so they included those brands in the lower corners of the plaque. We extend a big thanks to everyone involved in this project.



We also received a piece of old farm equipment, a manure spreader, donated by Doris & Ed Bolain. Ed bought the spreader about 40 years ago and used it for about 20 years. It had been converted from horse-drawn to tractor-drawn. Again, we thank Terry Pullen of the POA Golf Maintenance Dept and his crew who came to our rescue by loading the spreader at the Bolain farm, hauling it to the museum and unloading it for display out behind the museum.



GUESS WHAT THIS IS!

Carole Linebarger Harter found an old piece of equipment in the yard when she and her husband Bill bought their home in Fayetteville. She offered it to the museum and we agreed to take it, not knowing what it was. Our volunteer Jill Werner researched it online and soon found out it was evidently the bottom half of an old cream separator as shown in the picture below right. We plan to use it to hold cooking utensils near our fire pit behind the Settler's Cabin.



MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE....

--To our new docents Brian Mobley and Carla Lemmeyer, thank you for joining us! In addition to putting our firewood rack together, Brian has also already moved and hauled furniture for us on several occasions.

--To Dale Phillips who stepped right up to help with presidential tasks, even prior to becoming Co-President, while Xyta Lucas recovers from knee replacement surgery.

--To the Weekly Vista staff, especially Keith Bryant, Lynn Atkins, and Terri O'Byrne, and to Becca Martin of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, who go out of their way to give us as much newspaper publicity as possible!

--To our Board member Steve Morrow, manager of Allen's Food Market, who is doing his best to help keep the community's spirits up during these extremely trying times.



CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

The third annual City-wide garage sale, which had been scheduled for late April, has been cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic. We had planned to again offer museum parking spaces for rent to those individuals who didn't want to have a garage sale at home. Last year volunteer Dustie Meads proposed the rental idea and served as coordinator for the event, as a fundraiser for the museum. It was a very successful event and we hope to be able to do it again next year.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

When the museum re-opens, we invite everyone to come check out our gift shop merchandise. We will continue to carry local honey, plus a variety of Bella Vista souvenirs, and other merchandise that has been donated to the museum for selling in the gift shop. If you have small items that would fit on our shelves and would like to donate them to sell as a fundraiser for the museum, please contact us when we re-open the museum to see if it is something we think would be appropriate. Thanks for keeping us in mind.

LANDSCAPE APPRECIATION

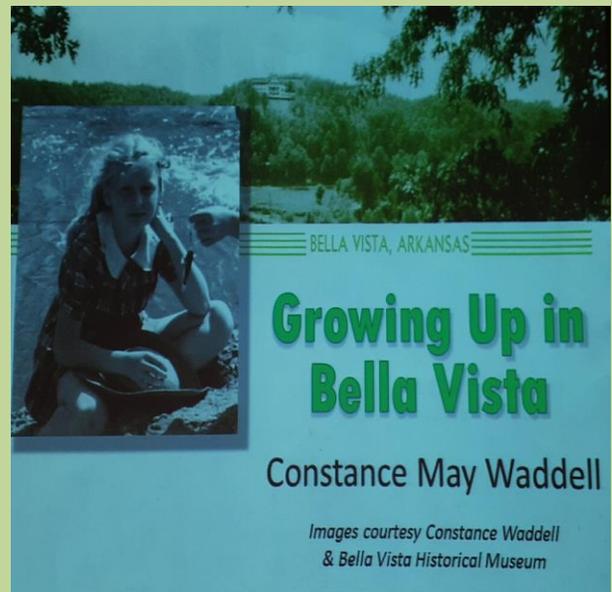
Once again this year, crews from the POA General Grounds & Maintenance Department are taking care of mowing our grounds. Even with the museum closed, we appreciate having the grounds look nice for people driving by.

Patrice Murphy continues to do a great job as our volunteer landscaper. With spring arriving, she is back on the job again and we appreciate her very much!



SALLY AND ME

We would like to thank Constance Waddell for her delightful talk about the history of Bella Vista at the Shiloh Museum in Springdale on January 15. Having grown up in Bella Vista, she has many memories of what it was like here in the 1930's and 1940's, which she has captured in her book, *Sally and Me*, available in our gift shop. We really appreciate Constance's donation of these books as a fundraiser for our museum. Here are some of the pictures she shared during her talk, ones of her with her friend Sally, of her and her pets in front of the May cottage, and of her parents on the front steps of the Linebarger cottage on the east side of Lake Bella Vista.



MEMBERSHIP

We are continuing to take memberships for the calendar year 2020. If you are not already a member of the Bella Vista Historical Society, you are welcome to join. If you would like to renew for 2020, you are welcome to do so at this time. Since the museum is closed, we cannot handle in person payments, but would ask that you mail your check to us.

By becoming a member, you support the preservation of Bella Vista's rich and unique history, and help us educate the public. Benefits include receipt of our quarterly newsletter and an invitation to our annual membership meeting held each March. Our newsletter is available by email or snail mail, but of course we would prefer to have your email address so that we can avoid mailing costs. If you don't have email, however, we will mail our newsletter to your home address. 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!

Bella Vista Historical Society
1885 Bella Vista Way
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!