

The Arch

The Newsletter of the Putnam County Museum

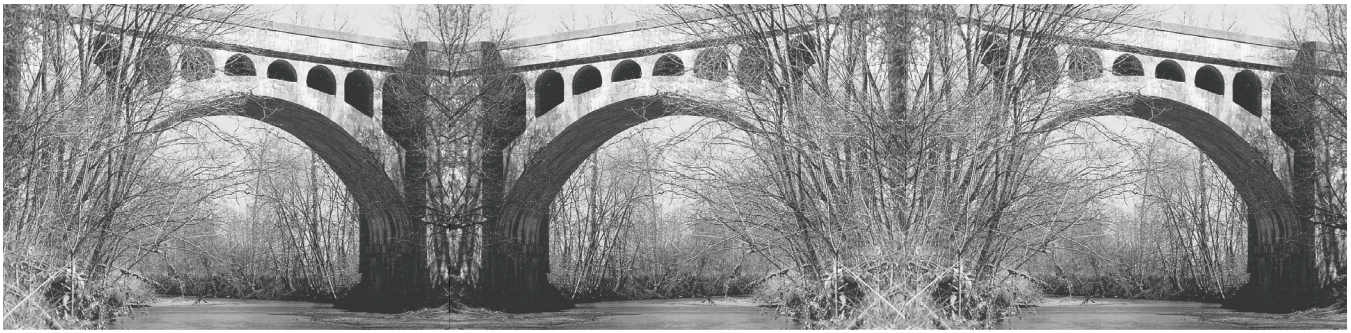
Vol 7. Fall 2009 issue 1

The
First
Bequest

Bonner
Scholars

You
Are
Needed





Events

- Margo Bode presentation on Pearl Bryan • Oct. 28, 6-7 pm
- Baughman Bus Tour • Nov. 7, 10 am-Noon
- The History of Extension by Mark Evans • Nov. 12, 6:30-7:30 pm
- Fun Night out with Barb Fuson • Dec. 4, 4-6 pm
- Annual Holiday Party • Dec. 9, 5-7 pm

Exhibits

- Barb Fuson, Art Walk
- Whitaker Funeral Home, County Commerce
- The Haunts of Putnam County
- Butler/Tincher, Founding Family
- 4-H Past, Community Curator
- African American History
- PREVO
- Carpentersville FAH Club
- Tools of the Trade, Don McClain

Contact

Putnam County Museum
 1105 North Jackson Street
 Greencastle, Indiana 456135
 (765) 653-8419
 museum@co.putnam.in.us
 www.co.putnam.in.us/museum

Hours

Tuesday - Friday • 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 Saturday • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 and/or by appointment

- 4** *Welcome New Members*
- 5** *Museums First Bequest*
- 7** *Don & Kay Gedert*
- 9** *Shedding Light and Other Things*

From the Director's desk...

The Museum proudly introduces the wonderful young women who are working with us this semester through the Bonner Scholar Program at DePauw. We are grateful to have these interns helping us with everything from exhibits to research.



My name is Benyatip Farris, but I prefer to be called “Benya.” I’m a second year student at DePauw University. I’m also a Bonner Scholar intern. I moved to the US from Thailand about 6 years ago. I currently live in Franklin, IN. I’m a studio-art major and a psychology minor. I absolutely love museums.

“Benya” Farris



Kareen Dillion

Working at the Putnam County Museum has been a pleasure, which is why I have come back. I am a returning Bonner intern, who is currently a sophomore at DePauw University. I’m from New York City, and not only am I a Bonner Scholar I am also a Posse Scholar, which provides me a scholarship to attend DePauw University. In the past at the Putnam County Museum I have helped with research, creating exhibits, and reorganizing artwork. I plan on being a curator in the future, and the work that I do now is helping prepare me for that career. Art flows in my blood stream, and being asked to come back by both Anne and Tanis was a huge delight, proving to me that my presence matters. I look forward to another wonderful year with these lovely ladies again.



Hello, my name is Liz Bjordal, and I am a ne intern here at the Putnam County Museum this semester. I am a first-year student from DePauw gratefully working through the Bonner Scholar Program. Although I have no idea what I will major in, I am very interested in visual arts, history, humanities, and Spa nish. Volunteering at the museum nearly fills all of my interests; I feel very lucky to be here! I am originally from Columbus, IN just east of Bloomington. However, I have family in

Bedford and Carmel as well. Although I am not living in the same town as my family members anymore, I try to stay in contact as much as possible, especially with my younger sister and grandma. Believe me, I am very talkative, so please chat me up sometime. You can find me here on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Hello! My name is Amanda Faulkenberg and I am a Bonner Scholar at DePauw University. I am currently planning on majoring in Biology as sort of a pre-med route, however that could change! I am from a small town in Southern Indiana called Bandon. It has around one hundred residents, including my family and myself. I have one older brother, Eric, who is in the United States Navy and is currently in Afghanistan. I have several pets that I love dearly. I have a cat, a dog, and fish named Whiskey, Jamison, and Pancake, respectively. I look forward to working at the Putnam County Museum this year and learning about my new community.

What's Happening at the Museum

Fall is upon us and as hard as it is to believe the Holiday season is just ahead. We hope you will stop by and enjoy our new exhibits. Beginning with the 4 Corners, we are featuring the Butler-Tincher family as our first founding family. Marjorie Meek has done a wonderful job bringing this history to life with photographs, scrapbooks and some special family artifacts. The Whitaker Funeral Home of Cloverdale is an 100 year old business for our County Commerce exhibit. The Community Curator area is filled with old and new pictures, items, and articles about Putnam county 4-H. Featured in the art walk is the work of Barb Fuson. We also have several events planned for the coming weeks, and we hope you will want to attend them all.

Starting with November 12, at 6:30, Mark Evans will be doing a presentation on the history of Extension, not to be confused with 4-H. The following week on November 17, Mental Health America will be sponsoring a program on "bullying and what can be done about it". December 4th we will be having a reception for Barb Fuson from 6-8. We hope you will come to celebrate her work and if you have a Fuson painting, please bring it to share that evening. The Holiday party will be held on December 9 from 5-7. This special evening is to thank all of our members for their support. We hope you will come and enjoy the music of the Country Covered Bridge Chorus, and celebrate the season with us at the Museum. You can expect your invitation in the mail soon!

Welcome New Members

Megan Asbell
Lloyd & Helen Blubaum
Paul & Barbara Campbell
David & Peggy Cash
Charles & Jackie Hall
Jason & Stacey Hartman
David & Marie Hopwood

Dennis & Emily Knuth
Mason's Jewelers
Harl & Saraellen Peters
William & Gerri Roady
Howard & Cheryl Thomas
Dr. Perry & Rose Wainman
White Laundry

Calling all Techies!

Well, after an incredibly long stint of having no web site at all, we finally have a new website at a new address, www.putnamcountymuseum.org. However, we need someone who can maintain, update, and work on it so that we can stay up to date in this age of computers, instant information, and technological overload! We need a dedicated webmaster! Do you have a computer at home? Do you have experience working on websites? Do you have some free time to devote to this incredibly important volunteer position? We need your help! Please call us and let us know if you are willing to undertake this task. If this isn't a role that you can take on, but you know someone who may be interested, please pass along our plea for help!

Boo!

If you haven't yet come to see the Haunts, Folklore, and Legends of Putnam County, you have to come in soon—time is running out! We have a fun display of local haunted tales including the DePauw Library Haunted Book, Pearl Bryan, and Locust Hill as well as displays from local paranormal groups including Hoosier State Paranormal and Sasquatch Bigfoot Research Unit. Visitors have enjoyed the displays, reading and listening to the tales and eerie events, and recalling spooky events from their past. We invite you to share your tales with us when you stop by. The exhibit will remain up through the holidays, so be sure to bring visiting family and friends to enjoy the fun and folklore!

Critters for our Barn

Take a close look around the next time you are in our round barn and here is what you should find: a black bird in the rafters, a baby bat hanging upside down, and a couple of bees (one whose tail lights up!)

But shouldn't there be more? A cat or two, puppies, an owl, mice and rats, a raccoon on the roof? Only your imagination limits us. Help us out, please. Take a look around for stuffed animals or pottery forms and we will find a new home for them in our round barn.



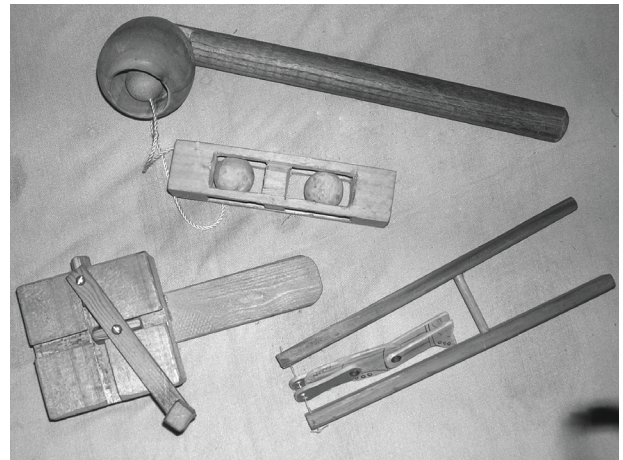
Museum Announces Receipt of its First Bequest

Robert Goldsberry was no stranger to the Putnam County Museum. We thought of him as a good friend, generous with his time displaying his woodworking skills and generous in providing the museum with the old-time toys he hand-crafted. Children gravitate to those toys over and over again as they try their hand at playthings similar to those their great, great, great grandparents may well have enjoyed.

Robert Goldsberry's interest in the Museum and his generosity have never been more evident than in his bequest to us. Robert died in July. How fitting that he attended a birthday party at the Museum a few weeks before his death. He will be remembered with great affection.

This gift to the Putnam County Museum is a reminder to us that we can help guarantee

the long term financial security of the Museum in several ways. We can include the Museum in our financial planning. We can take advantage of the Federal Pension Protection Act, due to expire at the end of the year, with a gift out of our IRA accounts whereby we can avoid the tax consequences otherwise in effect. Talk to your lawyer or tax or estate planning consultant about the various possibilities



Wooden toys made by Robert Goldsberry are on display at the Museum.



This miniature farm, crafted by Robert Goldsberry, is on display in the Museum's round barn.

Peeler Pottery Publication to Printer

By Warren Macy

Drum roll.....finally, on October 2nd our Peeler Pottery book was delivered to the printer! The best estimate is that we will have the book in six to eight weeks—in plenty of time for your holiday gift giving. This initial printing is of 200 limited edition hard back and 800 soft cover books. The 8 1/2” x 11” book has 352 pages containing

approximately 600 full color photos. The special edition hard back books with dust jacket will sell for \$75 and the soft cover books will be \$40.

Tentative plans call for museum members to have the first chance to purchase the book at the Holiday party on December 9th with Marj Peeler in attendance to sign your purchases. Thereafter, the book will be available to the public with a book signing at the museum planned for December 12th. A signed book would make a great gift for your Peeler collecting family and friends.

Peeler Project Partners in Perfection

By Sally Gray

The magnificent Peeler Book is a reality! And our thanks go to the dynamic trio who are responsible for its emergence:

Marj Peeler, the Guiding Light and Inspiration;

Warren Macy, the Driving Force who never lost faith;

Rita Schendel, the Heart and Soul of the end product.

All Putnam County Museum members owe these three our gratitude. The Museum will benefit from the publication of this book not just because of the financial gain to us, but because of the acclaim we will receive from having our name associated with such a really fine book.

February at the Elms

In honor of the Peeler Book, the Putnam County Museum will be holding an elite cocktail party at the Elms, on February 20, 2010. DePauw President, Brian Casey, has been gracious enough to open his home to us for this celebration. More information will be coming out as we get closer to the date.

Don and Kay Gedert, Museum Heirlooms

By Sally Gray

Don and Kay Gedert are both from the Toledo, Ohio area. They were married in 1955 shortly after Kay graduated from high school. Don worked in insurance but was always interested in the manufactured home industry. The Gederts wanted to buy and run a mobile home park as a base from which to sell manufactured homes, but they were looking for something special, a location with aesthetics. They found it south of Greencastle in what was then the Hess Mobile Home Park which they purchased in 1967 and which was their home for thirty-five years. They renamed the park Ottawa Mobile Home Park and opened and ran Ottawa Manufactured Homes Sales from the same location.

When the Gederts bought the Greencastle property, mobile home parks had to have a manager living on the site, so Don and Kay moved into the residence at the entrance to the property. In 1971 that house became the park office and they installed a manufactured home on property in the park with a basement, giving them a comfortable home and a full basement.

Don's philosophy: "If you sell Fords, you drive a Ford; if you sell manufactured homes, you live in a manufactured home". And he and Kay have been true to that belief ever since that first manufactured home in Ottawa Park.

In the same year that the Gederts moved into their first manufactured home, Stardust Hills Development Corporation in Cloverdale entered its first plats in Stardust Hills. The development was originally expected to be second homes for city folk who wanted a country getaway. But problems drove that first development corporation into bankruptcy. In 1984 the property was bought by Investputnam, Inc., a company founded by 27 Putnam County businesses and individuals. Don and Kay Gedert were a part of that effort to maintain and develop Stardust Hills. In 1990 Don and Kay became the sole owners of Stardust Hills.

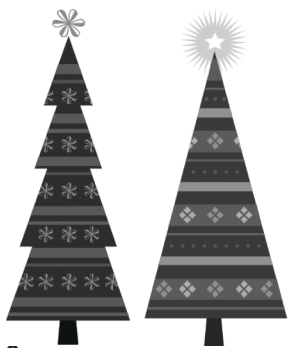
In 2002 Don and Kay sold the Greencastle property and moved to Stardust Hills where they live in—you guessed it—a manufactured modular home. As do their son and daughter who work for Ottawa Instant Homes and Ottawa Realty, the offices of which are at the entrance to Stardust Hills.

Cloverdale has benefited greatly from Don and Kay Gedert's interest in making their community the best possible place to live and raise children. Don has been president of the Cloverdale Redevelopment Commission for seven years. He was a part of the successful effort to bring Crossroads of America Horse Arena to Cloverdale. Kay played an essential role in the Cloverdale Income Survey that was fundamental for the Town of Cloverdale's grant applications. Kay is president of Cloverdale Mainstreet and proud of that organization's dedication to providing services and activities to the community at no expense to those attending. Cloverdale Mainstreet sponsors the Saturday Market, Christmas Parade and Breakfast with Santa.

While Cloverdale has been the focus of the Gederts' commitment to community, the county as a whole has also benefited from their giving of time, energy and treasure. Don has been on the Board of Directors of the Putnam County Convention and Visitors Bureau for six years as the Cloverdale designee and has been president of the board for more than one term.

The Putnam County Museum is proud to claim Don and Kay Gedert as Heirlooms since they first became members over five years ago. We thank Don and Kay Gedert for their dedication to the quality of life in Putnam County, not only in Cloverdale, but in the broader community and their continued support of the Putnam County Museum.

Museum's Annual Holiday Party, Coming Up



Mark Your Calendar - for December 9th, you're Invited to the Museum Members Holiday Party. This year entertainment will be provided by the Covered Bridge Country Chorus plus food, friends and fellowship. Our party will be from 5-7 and we look forward to seeing all of you.

Shedding Light and Other Things

We have a wonderful volunteer at the museum who is responsible for brightening the museum and displays as well as illuminating the round barn. We'd like to spotlight **Ted Yahraus** as a guiding light with his volunteer work.

Ted, a resident of Putnam County, was originally from the Cleveland, OH area. He obtained a Mechanical Engineering degree from Purdue University in 1964 and then first worked at General Electric's Jet Engine Division in Evendale (Cincinnati), Ohio.

At that stage in life, he met and married Bonnie, his wife, also a Purdue graduate.

From that point, he transferred to GE's Lighting Systems Division in Hendersonville, NC, where he designed optical systems for lighting products. His next two career moves found him back in Indiana, first working in Crawfordsville for Lithonia/Hi-Tek Lighting, and then moving on to Juno Lighting Group in Fishers. This last career move placed him in Putnam County, living in an 1870 Victorian Bed-and-Breakfast home. All in all, he has spent 40 years in Lighting Design and Development, obtained several lighting patents, and has presented several conference papers at the annual Illumination Engineering Society conventions.

One of his favorite past-times is creating arts and crafts from everyday materials, and he has submitted entries to the Crawfordsville Fall Art Show. When he discovered the Putnam County Museum in its Kroger Store setting, he arranged for donation of the track lighting system and lamps that are presently illuminating the exhibits. It was amazing how the various suppliers of lighting equipment were moved to contribute toward a better museum environment, and all have been thanked. Ted now finds himself available, due to his career position being ended, for continuing to help the museum in finding creative solutions to its problems!



YOU, that's right—YOU—are needed!

Doubtlessly, you are already aware of how wonderful, how important, it is to preserve our past. It has been said that knowledge of our history, our heritage, is what makes us human, what gives depth to our lives. A small museum like ours can not exist, though, without volunteers like you! You know the definition of volunteers, don't you – those who agree to give their time and talents, without benefit of salary, special recognition, or any expectation that they will be appropriately recognized in any way for their service. However, they will come to know and understand that their gift of service is a gift without price, and a gift that is essential to the fabric of a community. A volunteer's commitment of time is really up to the individual. And don't forget that we need people to serve on committees too, or even to just be a sounding board, making suggestions or giving constructive criticism.

Museum docents are only one very special type of volunteer. Docents are trained to be the first contact with the visiting public, to answer their questions when they can, and to make a guest feel comfortable and welcome. But docents are not our only volunteers, for we seek anyone who has a special skill or ability, whom we can call when needed.

- We need people who have strength to help move heavy items, or the trucks to carry them from one place to another.
- We need plumbers or electricians.
- We need people who have computer skills, in particular, people who could help keep a website updated.
- We need people who can help us with even the simplest of tasks, like making certain our trash is taken to the appropriate dumpster on appropriate days.
- And yes, we need people who can bake cookies, or be sponsors for important events.

Because we operate with only part time help, and limited resources, virtually all of you are needed, and all of you have some skill you could offer, whether you know it or not. Please consider the type of service you could offer, and call us so that we could talk to you about how you could contribute to the work we are doing—that you are doing—for your county. Our number is 653-8419, ask for Anne or Tanis, or if you would prefer, talk to one of the volunteer coordinators, Ellie Ypma at 653-6639 or Margaret Champion at 848-1989. Don't hesitate, for our success; our continuation as a resource; our depository for Putnam County's unique artifacts; our venue for programs which help all of us to better understand ourselves; is – simply stated – up to you.

The Muse



At this time of year we all start moaning and groaning as we think about Christmas shopping and what to buy for that one person on our list who has everything. You know exactly who I mean; we all have one or two people whom we buy for who doesn't need a thing, or seems to have one of everything already. Well, this year don't fuss, fret, or worry. The Muse has just the thing you didn't know you were looking for!

The Muse Gift Shop at the Putnam County Museum features work by local Putnam County residents. From paintings and pottery to books and jewelry, you will find an array of items to fit all types of budgets. Stop by today and finish your Christmas shopping early. The Muse is open during museum hours, Tuesday through Friday 1pm to 4pm and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. You can also check out our merchandise on line at www.putnamcountymuseum.org.

A Message from the President

I read an article recently called “In Praise of Small Museums” written by Ron Chew and published in the American Association of Museums newsletter, which I would like to share.

“I love small museums. I love looking at old objects on display in sparsely populated galleries, where I don’t have to fight for the best viewing angle. I love engaging the front-desk volunteer in an extended conversation, getting lost amid the sometimes randomly assembled artifacts, and seeing “the fingerprints” of the institution’s staff and volunteers all over the exhibitions. A visit to a small museum can be an indescribably rich experience.”

I couldn’t have said it better. Small museums are perfect places to find yourself on an afternoon. We do not pretend to compete with the big guys, but we have much to offer. Putnam County has a rich history and thanks to the many who have worked hard to create the space and find the artifacts, we have a place to display that history. There is an important tactile sensation in seeing an item rather than viewing it on a flat screen or a page of a book. Recently, several members took a tour of Green Acres to locate those items that have some history and that we would like to display if only temporarily.

We spotted an antique barber chair made at the Koken Barber’s Supply Co. in St Louis, but that had made its home here for the better part of a century. Recently, a visitor told me they had a butter churn, actually several butter churns, and would consider a loan or a donation. A community museum helps us to recall a favorite memory, as she did just mentioning the churn. I recall watching my grandmother churn butter on her farm, and thought how much better it would be to see one again.

A small museum can highlight so many items that speak to our heritage. If you come now you will see the Prevo letters on display, the very letters that adorned the front of the building for so many years. That is unique to us, and just a couple months ago, before the letters were up, a visitor came by and asked whether they had been saved, because he had delivered produce to Greencastle for years, and remembered them.

The volunteers that give their time to the museum, want to encourage you to bring your friends, to verbally market what we already have and what we continue to build. Tell all to come and stand in the replica of the Round Barn, to read about Putnam County resident Pearl Bryan and her tragic ending, to read the charges filed against John Dillinger, and admire the artistic talent of residents from the past and the present. What we are doing is important, and you as members wouldn’t be members if you didn’t understand that. But our continued success and growth are dependent on you. Your voice, your contributions, your willingness to help when needed are essential. Thank you for all you have done, and for what you must continue to do to see us prosper and become that destination we want for not only Putnam County residents but for all who travel our roads. Meanwhile, go searching your attics, your closets, your garages or basements, you might just have an item that needs the light of day again, and which might help us educate our visitors about our past.

Your Board President, Diana LaViolette

Museum Wish List

- LCD Projector
- DVD/VHS Player Combo
- Adding Machine
- Multi-function Machine (Fax, Scan, Copy, Print)
- Computer
- Outdoor Trash/Ash Can



Nonprofit Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 5
Greencastle, IN
46135

The Putnam County Museum
1105 North Jackson Street
Greencastle, Indiana 46135

