



Special Points of Interest

- WV Storytelling Guild
- Clio: A New Website & Mobile App
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- WVAM's New Website: Call For Information

Issue 3

August 2015

West Virginia State Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

By Rich Bailey

During the Summer of 2015, the West Virginia State Civilian Conservation Corps Museum located in Harrison County, West Virginia, south of Bridgeport and Clarksburg, just off I79 exit 115, provides a nice stopping place for visitors from all over the United States and other countries.

Located on the beautiful campus of the 1922 Quiet Dell Grade School, the West Virginia State Civilian Conservation Corps Museum Association operates the CCC Museum which boasts over five hundred artifacts from the Great Depression era. The CCC Museum is located in one of the main classrooms of the historic school. Tourists from as far away as New Zealand, England, and all parts of the United States have come to Harrison County to visit the museum. The campus of the school is under the ownership of the Harrison County Commission.

Ron Watson, Harrison County Commission President, commented: "This historic grade school property, the CCC Museum, and the West Virginia Heritage Crafts Inc. all make an important compliment to the diversity of what Harrison County offers to tourists and our citizens. We are deeply involved in preservation and improvement of this part of the county."

The West Virginia State



Civilian Conservation Corps Museum Association offers a look back in time to the period of the Great Depression. Charles Piercy, Acting President of Kingmont, Marion County, reports that the group's mission is to preserve the legacy of the many achievements of the Civilian Conservation Corps (1933-1942). "Over fifty-five thousand young men and women served in the CCC in West Virginia alone. You go across the Mountain State and visit our fine State and National Parks, and you see the handiwork of the CCC Program." He continued, "This program was one of the most successful government programs in history. They built park cabins, picnic shelters, lodges, park furniture, lakes, ponds, swimming pools." He concluded, "This is why we honor them with what we do. Many folks stop by in hopes of seeing their loved ones who served in the CCC."

"We have three important functions during the year." reported Piercy, "The last Sunday of March, we hold a

program to celebrate the signing of the CCC into law by Franklin Roosevelt at the museum. We honor the CCC Vets, their families, and friends, at two Jubilee Reunions held the third Saturday in April and October at the Quiet Dell United Methodist Church."

The Association shares the Quiet Dell School with the artisans of West Virginia Heritage Crafts, Inc. People from far and wide come to Quiet Dell to purchase West Virginia crafted artifacts, for example, homemade health soaps, walking sticks and cans. Because of this cooperation, the CCC Museum is able to be open seven days a week. Mondays through Saturdays, 10am-5pm, Sundays 1 pm. to 5pm. Groups, like schools, or persons planning a visit should call ahead at 304-622 3304 to arrange for tours.

For more information of being part of the West Virginia State CCC Museum please call Charles Piercy at 304-363 4388 or Rich Bailey at 304 842-3436. Visit our updated website at wva-ccc-legacy.org.



**Something
New For Your
Museum:
WV
Storytelling
Guild
Provides
Programs for
All Ages**

**By
Judi Tarowsky**

The West Virginia Storytelling Guild has nearly 40 active members from not only West Virginia, but also Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland and Kentucky. The Guild has been a part of the state's culture since October 1996 when the very first West Virginia Storytelling Festival was held at Jackson's Mill, WV. Prior to that, however, the storytellers of West Virginia were working hard to keep the cultural art of storytelling from slipping into oblivion. Through their hard work, a time-honed craft has been saved for future generations.

Guild members can present a variety of programs for all ages, as well as workshops. Although members are willing to provide some pro bono performances under particular circumstances, there will usually be a performance fee that can be negotiated with each teller. The Guild itself can work with a venue to present a performance with several tellers.

For example, several West Virginia Storytelling Guild members took part in the Vandalia Gathering on Memorial Day weekend in Charleston, WV, and at the West Virginia State Folk Festival June 19-20 in Glenville, WV. The Guild will be presenting the Prickett's Fort Storytelling Festival Sept. 24-25 at Prickett's Fort, Fairmont, WV. In addition, Guild members also take part in a variety of festivals and other storytelling events in West Virginia, the tristate area, nationally, and internationally.

Anyone interested in joining the Guild, either as a teller or a supporter of storytelling may log on to <http://wvstorytellers.blogspot.com> for a membership form.

For information on contacting a storyteller, please email Judi Tarowsky at mtarowsky@gmail.com.

Book Review

**UP FRONT:
Text And
Pictures by Bill
Mauldin
New York: Henry
Holt And
Company.
Original Edition,
Drawings, 1944
Text, 1945**

**By
Carol Schweiker**

Mauldin writes: ".....Once I did get almost editorial--at the time when it looked as though we weren't going to get to vote, because the bill was being kicked around in Congress."

"The only purely editorial cartoon I can remember was when we were all bursting with enthusiasm and optimism about the attempted assassination of Hitler. We felt that this was an indication that Germany was cracking, and we would be home by Christmas."

Bill Mauldin, cartoonist and writer for the European "Stars & Stripes," illustrated this feeling of hope by putting his cartoon characters, "Willie and Joe", on the ground sleeping and waking up to what looks like fireworks spelling out "BLOWUP IN GERMANY" above their heads.

The beloved characters, were the doughboys--the grunts of WWII, on the Italian front lines of the war in the early months of 1944. Mauldin was with Willie & Joe in every bit of mud, foxhole and inch of the way; suffering the same hardships such as bad feet, mud, snow, bullet dented helmets, and waiting for letters from home.

Mauldin sketched and wrote along the way. He sketched out the emotions and feelings of his characters as reflections of every "doggie" he heard and saw and wrote:

"I'm convinced that the combat badge means much more to the front-line soldier than the small amount of extra pay that goes with it. It is the symbol of what he has been through"

General Patton reprimanded Mauldin; he threatened to pull him out of the combat zone for his rumpled appearance and idiotic cartoons. Bill kept on doing what he did best through the end of the war. Bill Mauldin would go on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1945 and again in later years. Mauldin was only 20 years old when he went into the service, and 23 when he left.

"You don't need the chaplain, Jack," said the medic. "You're going to be okay. What got you?" "It was a grenade," said Jack, his hand still reaching for his face. "Where's the chaplain? God, why do you let me hurt like this?"

Bill Mauldin saw the best and worst of the second World War. He left behind the images of the conflicts, human and military, in cartoons and words. Why am I reviewing this book for you? Many of our West Virginia museums are commemorating and preserving the stories and endings of conflicts as well as all 20th century military actions. Some have exhibits, parades, memorials, statues, and on it goes.

What ended in 1865, 1945 and 1975, and now, all seems to reflect in the faces of Willie & Joe in Mauldin's book, UP FRONT. You can't imagine our men and women in war time, ever, without reading UP FRONT, unless you have been here. That is history in black and white pictures and words. Wars never change. Cartoon of Willie & Joe crawling under fire.....Joe says: "I can't get no lower, Willie, Me buttons is in th' way."

**CLIO:
New
Website
and Mobile
Application
Helps
Libraries
Reach the
Public
Where
They Stand**

How often do we walk past statues and historic markers without exploring their significance? When we are able to view a monument or marker, how often do they provide more than a few sentences? How do we find out about the compelling events that occurred in our communities when there is no marker? Ever see a sculpture and wish there was a way to know more about the artist? Faculty and librarians at Marshall University are leveraging the power of libraries and other educational institutions to increase the public's awareness of the history and culture that surround us. In the process, they hope to cultivate a more active view of the world and a deeper appreciation of libraries.

Marshall University professor David Trowbridge created Clio www.theclio.com as a class project. In the past two years, it has grown to include over 5000 historic and cultural sites across the United States, including hundreds in Pennsylvania. Clio is now available as a free educational website and mobile application, connecting the public with historical and cultural sites near their present location and offering links to resources where users



can find more information. Named after the ancient muse of history, Clio picks up a user's location and shows them the museums, landmarks, art galleries, sculpture, and historic sites near them. Each entry provides a quick summary followed by a more detailed account that may

include information about the creation of a monument or museum. Entries also include images, audio/video clips, and suggested books, articles, and websites. Entries for museums and libraries provide addresses, hours, phone numbers, official websites, and turn-by-turn directions. Because Clio can pick up a user's present location, it can guide them right to a museum or historic site—even when there is no marker.

As a result, Clio grants contributors the freedom to commemorate historic sites where there is no monument or marker. For example, Clio can guide a user to the precise location of the sit-ins At Gimbels Department store in Pittsburgh, former ballparks home to the Rockford Peaches and Homestead Grays, or a museum that commemorates the deadly smog that killed 18 residents of Donora in 1948. Entries includes images, video, and oral histories that cause a powerful response when users stand at the precise location where historic events occurred.

Clio's rapid growth is the result of a growing network of contributors. The site provides free institutional accounts to libraries, historical societies, museums, and other institutions so that staff members and volunteers can create, expand, and update entries. Clio also provides special accounts for educators that allow them to create and vet entries with their students. Each entry is attributed to the author and sponsoring institution or educator. Members of the public can also create entries and suggest improvements, with each of these entries being placed into "draft mode" until reviewed by an administrator. Clio also preserves each version of every entry,

providing a living record of how historical interpretations change over time.

Clio is nonprofit, noncommercial, and free for everyone. Its growing community of contributors believe that each entry demonstrates the importance of historic sites, libraries, and museums, as well as the need to support institutions that preserve and interpret history. Clio's founders invite Pennsylvania libraries and educators to join this community, creating and improving entries that can include links to resources from their collections.

The founders also hope that Clio will help libraries and other institutions secure funding and public support. For example, Marshall University Libraries recently secured a grant from the Knight Foundation to create entries in Clio related to African American history in Appalachia. The grant will enable the library to acquire new collections, digitize existing collections, and create entries that connects one's sense of place with knowledge of the past.

The timing of the grant may be appropriate, given Appalachia's unique and compelling connection to Black History Month. In 1915, Huntington's Carter G. Woodson launched a movement to preserve and incorporate the contributions of African Americans into the larger narrative of American history. Woodson became known as "The Father of Black History" because he reached both scholars and the public in the 20th century through journals and other print media. It seems fitting, that precisely one hundred years after Woodson began his efforts, a diverse team of schol-

(Continued on next page)

ars from Woodson's hometown is working with new technologies designed to reach the public in the 21st century. Libraries, historical societies, museums, and instructors that are interested in



learning more about Clio can view the information on the website. They can also sign up for instructor and institutional accounts that allow them to create, edit, and vet entries. Each entry includes the name of the author as well as the sponsoring institution, further demonstrating the value of public institutions and the central role of libraries in the diffusion of knowledge. Are institutions can also contact the site administrators via email at clio@theclio.com.

***7th Annual
Historic
Preservation
Awards
Banquet
Preservation
Alliance of West
Virginia
Saturday,
September 19,
2015 from 3:30 PM
to 11:00 PM (EDT)
Grafton, WV***

Join the WV Preservation Alliance for the 7th Annual Historic Preservation Awards Banquet in Grafton, an inaugural WV Focus "Turn This Town Around" project. This year's event will highlight Grafton's excellent preservation projects within its business district.

3:30 - Registration beings at International Mother's Day Shrine

4:00 – Walking Tour of Grafton Business District

Meeting location is the International Mother's Day Shrine.

Grafton holds a place of distinction in the histories of the American Civil War, the B & O Railroad, and Mother's Day. Much of the business district as well as many of the churches, government buildings and fraternal orders upon which town was built are still standing as a testament to the power of the past. This tour of downtown will take you through the important events and introduce you to the influential people who shaped the Memorial City.

Tour will be led by Darlene Ford, Taylor County Historical Society President. Wear comfortable shoes and bring an umbrella.

5:30pm – Separate registration period for Awards Banquet Ceremony and Dinner International Mother's Day Shrine

6:00pm – 2015 Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony

7:00pm – Annual historic preservation awards dinner

9:00pm – Concert

For more information, visit the event site at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/7th-annual-historic-preservation-awards-banquet-tickets-17629126191?aff=es2>

See this Newsletter in

FULL COLOR!

Subscribe Electronically!

Each issue of the WVAM Newsletter contains color images which you don't see in the black and white printed version. It is also simple to share the newsletter with others since you can forward it via email. If you would like to receive the newsletter in electronic format please send an email to

museumsofww@gmail.com

Curator's Corner



In 1844, Benjamin Biram Invented the Coal Mine Anemometer

By Jim Mitchell

This is the sixtieth Curator's Corner that I have written. As the months and years go by it is increasingly difficult to find, or think up, something new to write about. Yes, I know there are lots of subjects out there, but many subjects are too long and many anecdotes are too short. Finding something that is interesting and just right takes a little doing, and I always need a lead.

Last Friday a lady called me and asked me if we would like a donation of some coal mining things. I said yes, because we have about five coal mining exhibits in various places around the state and artifacts in our collection are becoming a little scarce. She could not explain what they were, except to say that they had been used by her husband and father-in-law who had been coal miners. Her daughter brought the box in and I had a great surprise. Instead of the usual caps, carbide lamps, books and tools (which would have been fine), the box contained five brass belt buckles, an electric cap lamp with cord and battery, a new pre-1985 West Virginia Department of Mines embroidered patch and two nice, working, leather cased anemometers.

What are anemometers, you say? Coal mine anemometers, or wind meters

were, and are, used to measure and record the speed of air passing through a mine tunnel. Miners need oxygen to breathe and a good flow, so that the air, carbon dioxide and other waste gasses are exchanged on a constant basis. They are about two inches deep and about four inches in diameter. They have an eight bladed fan which turns at the slightest whiff of air. I can puff at them and they rotate merrily. They are nice looking and just the right size to be collectible. Their leather cases are made with belt loops to be carried on a supervisor's belt.

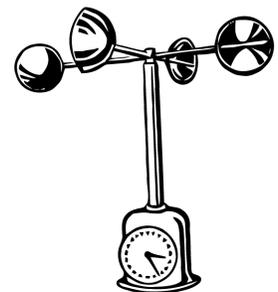
One of these was made by the Davis Instrument Manufacturing Company of Baltimore, Maryland. The company began in 1912, although a label on it shows that it was in use on June 18, 1976. The other is marked by the National Mine Service Company of Indiana, Pennsylvania. Maybe they made it, but more likely they sold it and the maker is unknown.

The original anemometer was invented and named by Benjamin Biram (1803-1857) in England in 1844. He was the steward, mineral agent and manager for the Earl Fitzwilliam of Wentworth Woodhouse who owned the Elsecar Collieries (coal mines) in South Yorkshire. John Davis and Son



Ltd. of Derby made the first anemometer in 1845. Davis had seven sons and one of them, Herbert, came to Baltimore in 1912 to start a branch office, and to sell the family's Davis Derby products. The business was very successful with Herbert, and later his son Alfred, managing the company into the late 1960s, when Alfred's died. The company was sold to new owners and continues in business today.

Other makers include Keuffel & Esser, New York; National Mine Service Co., Indiana, Pennsylvania; Queen & Co., Philadelphia; Short and Mason, London; Casella, London; Georg Rosemuller, Germany; and R. Fuess, Berlin-Steglitz.



**WVAM
Mourns the
Loss of Former
Board
Member,
Norman
Jordan
By
Carol Schweiker**

Norman Jordan served as board member of WVAM from 1999 through 2005. Norman and wife, Dr. Ancella Bickley, were instrumental in forming the "African American Heritage Family Museum" in Anstead, West Virginia.

Norman was WVAM conference chairman in 2002, and brought the members to Hawks Nest State Park that year for a remarkable journey through the Anstead Museum, as well as area historic sites in Nicholas and Fayette Counties.



Norman was a talented poet as well as historian, having been part of the wonderful "Harlem Renaissance" in New York City from the 30s through early 60s. He brought that inspirational movement back to WV to organize summer workshops in the arts for African-American youth; that were held at several institutions of higher education. He was a talented presenter in the WV Humanities programs, "History Alive."

Above all, Norman was a gracious, vibrant, advocate for the arts and humanities wherever he went. We will miss him.

IMPORTANT

**WVAM
Works to
Create
New
Website**

I know, I know, we've been saying it for years! Well, guess what! Last month, the WVAM board of directors signed the contract with Chiselbox (of Wheeling, WV) to create a new website and develop a new look for our organization! We're very excited!

One important aspect of our website that we plan on keeping is our regional map of member museums across the state. We plan to keep the map and make it even more interactive. Our old website was done quite a few years ago and it is now time to update your site's information for the new website!

At your earliest convenience, please send the information to WVAM Secretary, Bekah Karelis at bkarelis@wheelingheritage.org or call her at 304-232-3087 to make other arrangements.

We will need the following:

1. Up to 150 word description of your site
2. Representative photographs
3. Mailing address
4. Email address
5. Website address
6. Names of contacts, board of directors, etc. (basically, who do we contact if we need to get ahold of you?)
7. Phone number
8. And, anything else you think we should know!

Request From West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

Many of you have seen our Details newsletter in the past. Going forward we would like to have more stories in the newsletter that interest our readers. We would like to explore having one article in each issue that tells the story of a person or family that owns and lives in a National Register of Historic Places home.

What we need from you are contacts for these people. We have many homes on the Register, however once the nomination is complete, we lose contact with these people. Often times the home sells and we don't know how to contact the new owners.

If you know of people who may be willing to talk about their historic home, please email me at john.d.adamik@wv.gov or call me at 304-558-0240 and ask for me.

Thank you for your help. Articles such as these will help to showcase historic homes in a different way and will help to make our newsletter more appealing to a more general audience.

Sincerely,

John D. Adamik, Jr

Education and Planning Coordinator
304-558-0240

President's Message

Wow, it is hard to believe that summer is nearly at its end. For some businesses, things begin to slow down, but for the tourist industry in West Virginia we are just getting ready to gear up for the next season. Fall time brings out the "leaf peepers," and here in West Virginia we have plenty of places to go to enjoy the fall season. In addition to the miles of rail lines to ride, we have miles of roads to drive and trails to hike. Because the weather is getting cooler, more and more people will be taking long weekends and visiting areas that they may not have visited before. For a lot of these people, they may stay within a half-day drive from where they live, and this offers the museum community a great opportunity. The opportunity I am speaking about is to share the culture and history of our area with our close neighbors. About two weeks ago, I had a couple from Sistersville come into the Beverly Heritage Center. As we talked, I found out that they generally take one or two Saturdays a month and drive to an area they have not visited before just to "check" the area out. They mentioned that normally they get up early and drive to the area they decided to visit, spend the day exploring, and then drive home in the evening. After giving them a tour of the museum and explaining the historic significance of the area, the conversation turned to what they had seen on their trip that day. They had come to Elkins to ride one of the trains and had planned on going home that night. After telling them about several other locations I felt they should visit, they decided to spend the night in the area and continue their adventure on Sunday. I truly believe that after they finished their visit to this area they went home with a greater understanding of its historic significance. This was my opportunity to share the culture and history of my area with two people who did not come from another state, and I believe that they will go home and share their experience with family and friends.

I hope you all have a great autumn sharing your area's culture and history. I know I am looking forward to my next visitors.

Darryl

WVAM Board of Directors

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loomyladi@yahoo.com

WVAM Membership

Join Today!

Membership in WVAM provides a unique opportunity to be involved with sites and museums across the state.

Dues are for the calendar year from January to December.

Individual Member:

Active	15.00
Staff*	15.00
Retired/Student**	15.00

Institutional Member with a budget of:

\$ 0 — 29,000	30.00
\$30,000 — 99,000	50.00
\$100,000—249,000	85.00
\$250,000—749,000	175.00
\$750,000— and up	200.00

*staff of institutional member

** with copy of student ID

If you don't want to be a member, but would still like to donate, enter amount here: \$ _____

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send this form and payment to:

WVAM
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