

September 2016

Fall Issue

MUSEUM MESSENGER



Civil War Ironclad, USS Peosta

*Published by the William Clark Market House Museum...
founded in 1968 for the dual purpose of education and preservation,
and still serving the community with pride today.*

The Museum would like to thank Margaret Hamper and brother David Nelson for making us aware of a model of the USS Peosta that was held by their family. The Peosta and the Paw Paw patrolled the riverfront at Paducah during the civil war. The model was recently donated to the museum through the generous gift of the family and Mark Hamper of Illinois. It will debut in a March civil war exhibit at the Museum.

America needs you, Harry Truman!

Harry Truman was a product of his home grown roots, and he didn't mince words. He and Paducah's Alben Barkley were good friends from the time Harry went to the Senate through many years afterward. It is thought that both men, being farm raised, were no nonsense folk. Here are some of Truman's comments:

Never use two words when one will do better.

The greatest orators have been the men who understood what they wanted to say, said it in short sentences and said it quickly and then got out of there before the people fell asleep.

I never sit on a fence. I am either on one side or the other.

Criticism is something a presi-

dent gets every day, just like breakfast.

You get all the facts then make up your mind.

Once I made a decision, I didn't worry over it. If I made a wrong decision, I made another one to correct it.

There is no indispensable man in a democracy.

It's a recession when your neighbor loses his job; it's a depression when you lose your own.

Do your duty and history will do you justice..

Did you ever sit and listen to an orchestra play a fine overture and imagine that things were as they ought to be and not as they are? Music that I can understand always makes me feel

that way.

The least government is the best government. We should have just as little as we can get along with.

I could hardly hold my voice steady when I gave a medal to a widow or a father for a son's heroism in action.

If I couldn't be a pianist, I think I would have done better as a professor of history.

There is nothing new in the world except the history that you do not know.

A man not honorable in his marital relations is not usually honorable in any other.

There's an old joke that the vice president's primary job is to get up each morning and ask how the president is feeling.

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Museum's Patron Appreciation Evening set for Mon Oct 3rd

Once a year, the Museum has an event to thank our donors for their support during the year.

This year's celebration will be held on Mon, October 3rd, and will start at the Museum at 5:30, with a tour of the Museum till 6:15, when the crowd

will walk over to the dinner theatre to enjoy a wonderful repast and a program on Paducah history.

History awards will be given out to several in the community for their efforts to preserve or promote history.

It is hoped that this year will be a fun gala gathering, just as it has always proven to be in the past.

Invitations will be sent thru the mail to our sponsors and a timely RSVP would be much appreciated.

Mediterranean Salad: a perfect side dish for any meal

A chilled pasta salad is absolutely delicious anytime...but even more so when paired with a sandwich or a bowl of hot soup. This recipe, which has a little different twist on flavor, is one you'll prepare again and again. It is a tasty side dish to any meal. **For a tasty change, leave out the Miracle Whip and prepare the Italian dressing mix as directed on package, and toss into the salad and mix well.**

Ingredients: Al dente rotini, macaroni & bowtie pasta 1 small zucchini, chopped
 1 6 oz jar marinated artichoke hearts, drained and chopped 1/2 small white onion, coarsely diced
 1 4 oz can sliced ripe olives, drained 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
 1 cup frozen English peas, thawed one pack Italian dressing **seasoning**
 1 medium sized red bell pepper, chopped 1 teaspoon dried dill weed
 1/2 coarsely ground black pepper 1/2 to 1 cup Miracle Whip
 1 small jar chopped red pimentos dash of salt

Directions:

Cook pasta, drain, rinse with cold water and drain again, Combine artichokes and next six ingredients in a large bowl. Add cooked, cooled pasta. Combine mayo and rest of ingredients, stirring well with wire whisk. Add to pasta, mix, cover and chill. Yield: 8 servings.



Artichoke *noun*; a tall composite herb like a thistle with coarse pinnately incised leaves; also, its edible immature flower head with is cooked as a vegetable.

Paducah's civil war newspaper was a little bit biased

Paducah had a very nice, if limited, weekly newspaper which was published each Wednesday, called the Paducah Herald. However, the format of the newspaper changed drastically with the arrival of the Union troops on September 6, 1861.

On October 30th, 1861, a newspaper was published on the presses in Paducah's former Herald. Here we will quote the banner as we have discov-

ered it to have been worded:

THE UNION PICKET GUARD
 "Treason must be subdued,
 traitors must be punished."

The Union Picket Guard is published every Wednesday at the Late Establishment of the DEFUNCT PADUCAH HERALD."

Some of the headlines clearly outlined the sentiments of the

new publishers, such as "The latest TELEGRAPHIC NEWS! Another Battle at Springfield, Missouri. Rebels are routed and the town occupied completely by our gallant Troops."

Paducah was under Federal occupation till the fall of 1865, long after the war was over. It is unclear at this time if the former Herald was able to recover its presses at some point in time, or if another paper picked up where the Herald stopped.

Newspaper Jargon

All the news that's fit to print.—*byline of the New York Times*

The Pall Mall Gazette is written by gentlemen for gentlemen.—*William Makepeace Thackeray.*

Written by office boys for office boys. —*Marquess of Salisbury commenting on the attitude of the Daily Mail of the Pall Mall Gazette.*

The Times is speechless and takes three columns to express its speechlessness. —*Winston Churchill referring to Irish Home Rule, 1908*

The Palmer House Hotel was a luxury 'home away from home'

One of Paducah's most elegant hotels, was located at the corner of 5th and Broadway. It cost \$135,000 to erect and an additional \$35,000 to furnish.

Called the Palmer House, this luxurious establishment boasted 25 guest rooms, 18 suite rooms, 6 staircases, and 9 'bathing rooms.' Passenger elevators and central steam

heat were two innovations that set the hotel apart from its competition. Even the elevators were steam heated!

The building was four stories in height, constructed of solid brick masonry . Bay windows on the upper floors provided extra light and space in the rooms.

Oddly, the hotel was begun

in 1890, but its initial New York investor went bankrupt. Later, it was sold at a bankruptcy sale and was finished by local investors, including Elbridge Palmer who pledged \$7,000 providing the hotel would bear his name!

When the hotel opened in 1891, the cost of rooms were \$2.00, \$2.50, and \$3.00.

Unusual laws were on the books in 1904

It is often humorous to read the laws that were once 'on the books' for the City of Paducah. Some of those laws that were passed in the year 1904 will certainly cause us to smile. Here are just a few to ponder.

- It was unlawful to clean out the contents of a privy between May and October without the written permission of the mayor. (Can you imagine the mayor being bothered with such ?)
- It was unlawful to sell or throw confetti, talcum powder, or similar products from upper floor windows.
- It was unlawful to sell or give away any 'spirituous, vinous, or malt liquor' to any woman, minor, or habitual wrongdoer.
- It was unlawful for anyone working for the telegraph or telephone company to deliver the results of a horse race.
- It was unlawful for any person to loiter or loaf on the streets of Paducah or in public places.
- It was unlawful to fly kites in the streets of Paducah, or play ball games within 200 feet of any house.
- It was unlawful to ride a horse on any street in Paducah faster than a trot. (You had better plan on leaving the house a little early if you needed to be somewhere on time!)



POSITIVE THINKING

What we give of ourselves to others is the greatest measure of an individual.

Good, Better, Best. Make the good better, and the better, best!

It has been said that you cannot sell anything to anyone unless you are sold on the necessity of the product yourself. This is not a new principle. This same philosophy enabled creative salesmen in the Depression era of the 1930's to sell electric vacuums to housewives who didn't even have electricity in their homes.

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.

Often there is no 'giant step' that gets the job done, but rather, lots of persistent little ones.

Failures sometimes become successes.

That's how Post-It notes were developed!

Life is a grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on what you are made of.

Paducah's Carnegie Library: a once elegant establishment

At the turn of the last century, Paducah stood in need of a public library. A clergyman wrote a letter to Mr. Carnegie, and the rest became history.

A \$35,000 donation was granted for the building of Paducah's Carnegie Library, located at 9th and Broadway. The one stipulation made by Mr. Carnegie was that the City had to agree to spend \$3500 a year in support and upkeep of the

building, once plans for its erection was approved.

The beautiful Classical Revival structure was designed by local architect A. L. Lassiter. A monumental flight of stone steps led up to the front doors. Four Ionic columns supported a heavy pediment on which the words, CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY were displayed prominently. After you entered the library, you found yourself in a

beautiful atrium lit by a rotunda above. Reading rooms were located on either side of the atrium and were lit by large round topped glass windows.

Marble pilasters, stenciled walls, and later, classical busts of authors and famous persons adorned the interior.

The Library was built in 1904, but was closed and later demolished, after a minor fire in the early 1960s.

The naming of the liner 'Queen Mary' wasn't planned

The RMS *Queen Mary* is an ocean liner that sailed the north Atlantic Ocean from 1936 to 1967 for the Cunard Line (then the White Star Cunard Line.) Built by John Brown and Company at Clydebank, Scotland, she was designed as a super liner. She was to serve as a troopship in WWII and to end her days as a floating museum

at Long Beach, California.

The history involving her naming is rather humorous. The company went to King George V, (the reigning monarch) and asked permission to name the ship after Britain's greatest queen. George replied that his wife, Queen Mary, would be pleased to have the ship named after her. The officials had

wanted to name the ship the RMS *Queen Victoria*, but after George's remark had no other choice but to report that hull number 534 would be called the RMS *Queen Mary*.

The ship weighed 80,774 gross tons when she first sailed, and was only exceeded in weight by the *Normandie*, the largest ocean liner of all.

Museum Messenger



Hours:

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 till 4 pm, from the first Saturday in March through December 15th each year, unless otherwise posted.

Closed major holiday weekends.

Mailing address:

PO Box 12
Paducah, Ky 42002

Located at :

121 South Second Street (Market Square)
Paducah, Ky 42001

Telephone (270) 443-7759 during office hours

Go to our website for history fun and games!

www.markethousemuseum.com

Or send us an email:

info@markethousemuseum.com

HAPPY FALL!

Looking back: a message from the Executive Director

It sometimes seems the most unbelievable things can happen to us.

Paducah's Civil War Days in 2003 was a huge effort undertaken by many on the 10 person reenactment committee. I myself was the Civilian Projects Coordinator for the 1861 Downtown Invasion. General Grant was arriving; my mornings and evenings were chaotic. Everyone seemed to be calling me for details and/or information, and finally it came down to the last minute Friday afternoon. Then the unexpected happened.

I fell down the steep stairs at my third floor downtown apartment while hurrying too fast with a last load of heavy costume wardrobe over my arm.

"Come on, let's go!" I puffed to my friend Sara, who was already below and heard the thump, thump, thump, of my anatomy bouncing off the stair edges as I rolled to the bottom. "We're late already!" So off we limped to get to the soldier registration tent on time.

10:00 pm came, and we were off duty. But still there was more sewing to be done! Back we went to the apartment; up three flights of stairs. Sara and I sewed for two hours hemming the coat of a Civilian who needed it the next day. (Evidently it hadn't occurred to him to locate a seamstress in his home town, earlier in the week.)

Now it was midnight, and we realized we had eaten nothing since noon. A quick bite, then we had to get over to the Irvin Cobb Ballroom to decorate for the Ladies Tea the next day.

When we arrived at 1:00 am, a strange odor accosted our nostrils, something very unpleasant that Sara and I both wondered about. We set our boxes down and Sara asked, "Didn't you push the piano over into the corner yesterday?" "Yes," I answered, "and that piano quilt wasn't laying up on the center of the stage, either."

About that time, the quilt sat upright. "It's alive!" I hollered. Sara and I both screamed at the top of our lungs, then ran smack into each other in our confusion. A grizzled face and two huge, startled white eyeballs appeared out of the open end of the quilt. I'm sure the homeless man who thought he had found a cozy night's shelter, was every bit as startled as we girls were. His bare, none too clean feet popped out of the other end of the piano blanket, as he tried to beat a hasty retreat away from the blood curdling screams he had so rudely been awakened by. (I am sure those screams were heard by every resident of the Cobb that night, and probably started a ghost story of a forgotten murder long ago!)

The man went on his way with the help from a friendly policemen, and we finished our work and returned home at 2 am. As badly as we needed sleep, we kept the bed shaking with our laughter as we thought once again, how these things seemed to happen only to us. 5:30 came early as we rose to prepare for General Grant's Invasion later that morning.

—Penny Baucum Fields

Here's a bit of political trivia to leave you with a smile

- John F. Kennedy was a little overwhelmed by the popularity of his wife Jackie, and the pursuit of the press of his young children. Jackie could speak French like a pro; but when they went to Berlin **he** determined to speak something, anything, in German to win some popularity with the citizens there. He asked to have the phonetics to "I am a Berliner." He did not know

that a jelly donut was called a Berliner! So when he called himself a Berliner in front of the huge crowds, they all went to laughing and applauding, but it took Kennedy a while to understand the misinterpretation.

- When President Johnson was on live television during prime time one evening, the commentator remarked upon his recent surgery and hoped he was doing well. To everyone's amazement,

Johnson lifted his shirt tail and showed the nation the scars of his recent gall bladder surgery. To no one's surprise, Johnson's ratings fell drastically. It seemed folks cared about the well being of the president, but didn't want to see the scars on his abdomen!

- President Theodore Roosevelt, while he was a younger civil commissioner in New York, was once getting to the bottom of some cor-

ruption in the postal service. He asked the person on the witness stand if he didn't think what the man had endorsed had been cheating the government that had hired him in good faith.

"Why yes, I guess it does, but we have always done our cheating honorably."

Roosevelt's wrath can be imagined....and the wrongdoer ended up getting his due.