

Leaves of Thyme

VIGO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VOLUME 46, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 1991

The Mayflower Room
TERRE HAUTE HOUSE

50

RESERVED

For Mr. G. BOSS

Guests 4

Date NOV. 14

Expected 4:30 P.M.

*Retain As
Souvenir
Or
Mail To
A Friend*



*This is a reservation postcard, normally placed on the tables
in the Mayflower Room of the Terre Haute House.
(See related article).*

THE MAYFLOWER ROOM REMEMBERED

The words Mayflower Room have a meaning all their own for Terre Haute, Vigo County, and Indiana citizens. High school graduates from the area remember their junior and senior proms. Service club members remember their weekly luncheons and ladies' nights. Bridge players remember local and state tournaments with the Indian peering over their shoulders.

From 1936 until the Terre Haute Room closed, The Mayflower Room, with its adjuncts to pleasure, The Marine Room and the Coffee Shop, was the scene of social, civic, and various forms of activity at the Crossroads of America: Seventh and Wabash.

On Saturday, July 13, the Vigo County Historical Society will recreate the Mayflower Room, 1945 to 1959, at the Hulman Center. From 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., patrons will meet in the lobby just as guests at the Terre Haute House did. The guests may go on to the Marine Room, where there will be a cash bar, visit the Mezzanine to study memorabilia, or stop by the Coffee Shop for complimentary wine, beer, or lemonade. Any who feel the need to practice their dance steps may use the dance floor where appropriate music will be available.

The desk clerks and bell hops will be on hand to assist patrons and to answer questions. No doubt, distinguished visitors from the past will be registering at the reception desk. After all, Richard Nixon, John Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, and Phil Harris all signed the guest book. Even James Jones, the author from Marshall, may meet a literary agent in the lobby.

Leaves of Thyme is published by the Vigo County Historical Society, 1411 South Sixth Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47802. Address all mail regarding change of address and material for publication to the above.

1991 Society Membership Dues: Student—\$10.00; Individual over 65—\$10.00; Individual—\$15.00; Family—\$20.00; Club or School—\$20.00; Patron—\$25.00; Contributing—\$50.00; Sustaining—\$100.00; Business Associate—\$50.00; Business Patron—\$100.00; Business Sponsor—\$250.00; LIFE MEMBERSHIP—\$500.00.

Museum hours: 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Groups are requested to make tour appointments in advance. Museum Telephone: (812) 235-9717.

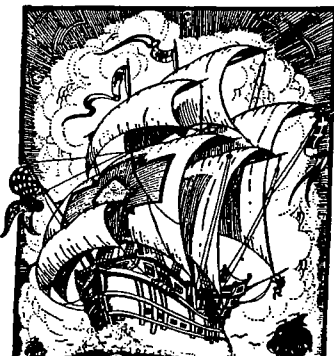
The Show "The Mayflower Room Remembered" will begin at 8:30 p.m. Sheila Wahamaki is even now rehearsing dancers, musicians, and actors for the always popular revue. This year, proms from the years 1945 to 1959, style shows, a magic show, and a state convention of the Gold Star Mothers are contemplated. Anyone who has seen a revue by the Historical Society knows the high quality of these recreations. Small scenarios of service clubs, military balls, wine-tasting, and sorority dances will fill in the program just as they were booked in the Mayflower Room.

Just as patrons of the Terre Haute House did, the patrons of the Historical Society Summer Celebration can visit The Marine Room, The Coffee Shop, or just mingle in the lobby after the show. The dance floor will be open, and music of the era will fill the air.

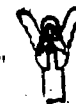
The Mayflower Room will live again on July 13, 1991. The guests of the Historical Society can relive memories of the Great Terre Haute House. The post-World War II era was a happy, expansive time in America. The music, the dancing, the clothes, and the entertainment were all optimistic, patriotic, and joyous. Come join the recreation of those happy memories and the creation of new ones. Many readers will have special memories of times spent in The Mayflower Room, The Marine Room, lobby and other areas of the Terre Haute House. If anyone has a souvenir or memorabilia that you have saved from any event in the hotel, especially from the years being featured (1945 to 1959), we would like to display them on July 13.

Some suggestions are clothing of the 1950's, such as prom gowns or photographs, Terre Haute House silverware, plates, programs, and postcards. If you have an item of interest, it may be brought to the Museum, or you may call 235-9717.

Please look through your keepsakes and scrapbooks!



"FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM"

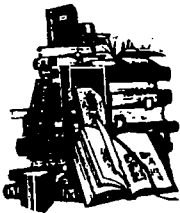


Another successful year comes to a close. We have a membership of 48 people who paid \$1.00 per year and who have received the newsletter from the president. There have been many others who have volunteered as hosts and hostesses as well. Our programs this year have been outstanding. "Thank you" to Marian Kintz for a job well done. A "thank you" also to Betty Foster for her hard work to acquire the hosts. We appreciate the work that you do, Betty. On Wednesday, July 17th, there will be an "Apron Workshop" to complete the aprons that we quilted bibs for. We need all who are willing to help. There will be a couple of sewing machines, and we will need cutters and pinners. So, bring a sack lunch and come join the fun from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., or any time that you can help between those hours. We want to have these aprons to sell at Fowler Park. Our monthly meetings will begin again with our annual meeting the third Monday in September at Laughner's. At that time, the Angel Awards for 20 hours of volunteer time will be presented. We are always pleased to have new members. If you are interested, please talk to Dave, Barbara, or me.

Barbara Wilkinson,

President

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Elizabeth H. Bevington

BY APPOINTMENT
(812) 234-8989

Many Thanks...

Our thanks to the following for their recent gifts to the Museum's collection: Susie Dewey, Albert Light, Jim Huntley, Dave Hill, Bernard Heck, Ada Hodge, Mary Trimble, and Wilma Eckerty.

Thanks to the following for their cash donations to the Historical society: Westminster Women's Association, Frances Williams, David Buchanan, Lucille Failing, Deming Center Tenants Association, Elizabeth Jane Wheat, Mary Wright, Gray Circle of Memorial United Methodist Church, Challengers Class, and United Methodist Women of Barbour Avenue United Methodist Church.

The Vigo County Historical Society is pleased to include anew Life Member - Earl Rodgers and Associates.

DONATING ITEMS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

If you were thinking about donating an item to the Historical Society, 1991 may be the year to do so. The IRS recently ruled that those giving property to tax-exempt organizations like the Historical Society can claim both regular tax and alternative minimum tax in the amount of the tangible personal property's fair market value if the item was related to the organization's purpose. Tangible personal property was described to include works of art, manuscripts, furniture, and other "collectibles". This ruling is only good for 1991! If you think you might be able to benefit from the ruling, along with the Historical Society, please talk with your accountant

MUSEUM CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE QUILT

For you who quilt, own quilts, and/or just love quilts, 1991 is the year for you. Governor Bayh has proclaimed 1991 as the Year of the Quilt, and Mayor P. Pete Chalos signed a proclamation declaring June as Quilt Month in Terre Haute.

Quilts have become a way in which historians can trace the history of women and their art. One way of documenting this tradition, which had gone unrecorded, was the Indiana Quilt Registry Project, IQRP.

Early in 1986, IQRP was formed. A dedicated group of volunteers canvassed the state to document as many Indiana quilts as possible. They recorded over 6,400 quilts. The ultimate goal of IQRP was to compile the information gathered and to keep it on file at the State Historical Society. A book with 84 of the most artistically interesting quilts has also been published.

All over Indiana, quilts are being honored at museums, show, fairs, etc. Terre Haute is no exception: the Swope will have a quilt display from June 8th to July 26th, and the YWCA will have a quilt show on June 15th and 16th.

The Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley will be displaying their entire collection of Victorian crazy quilts from June 8th to July 8th.

Crazy quilts are believed to be the first form of pieced quilting. They were made from scraps of left-over materials and worn-out clothing. The quilts made were hung on walls to help to keep out drafts, or as utility blankets on beds. They were also made into undergarments for the Knights to protect their skin from the armor that they wore.

The Victorian Age changed the image of crazy quilts. Victorian crazy quilts reflect the elegance of the time. These quilts were made of silks, satins, ribbons, velvets, and other fine fabrics. They were embellished with appliques, fabric paintings, and elaborate embroidery. Most were tied instead of quilted, and they became more of a parlor throw by which a


homemaker could show off her artistic needlecraft talents. The crazy quilts will be on display in almost every room of the museum. Be sure that you take time to see our fine collection.

A brown bag lunch program at the Swope Art Museum on Wednesday, June 12th, will be a cooperative affair between Swope and the Vigo County Historical Society. The speakers will be Marilyn Goldman and Marguerite Wiebusch, the chairpersons who put together the book, *Quilts of Indiana, Crossroads of Memories - the Indiana Quilt Registry Project*. It will begin at 12:00 noon. The Quilt Registry Book will be sold at the program, and the quilters will be happy to autograph them.

On Friday, May 31st, members of the Friends of the Vigo County Historical Museum will travel to Indianapolis. The group will stop first at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, where they will have a guided tour of the exhibit entitled, "Marie Webster Quilts: A Retrospective". A tour of the Mary Fendrich Hulman Addition will also be included. After lunch, members will visit "Quilt America, 1991". This is a quilt display, focusing on special collections from across the United States and is being held at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Terre Haute First National Bank is providing transportation for the group.

On June 29th, as part of the Historical Society's celebration of the Year of the Quilt, a special program will be held at the Museum. At 1:00 p.m., Karen Cochran Hassler, from Bargersville, Indiana, who coordinated the crazy quilt section of the Indiana Quilt Registry, will be the featured speaker.

This promises to be a very interesting program, to which the public is invited. For more information, call the Historical Museum at 235-9717. Those who would like to share their own crazy quilts are welcome to bring them.




MY GRANDMA HAS A CRAZY QUILT, A STORY QUILT FOR ME.
FOR EVERY PIECE THAT'S IN IT HAS ITS OWN HISTORY.

Crazy Quilts

AN EXHIBIT FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE
Vigo County Historical Society

June 8 - July 8, 1991

1411 South Sixth Street
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47802



Saturday Spectator

In the mid-1930's, the Saturday Spectator published a column, entitled "Do You Know--". We have reprinted a few of the "facts" for your enjoyment. Unfortunately, most of the bits of information do not have a source.

DO YOU KNOW--

Saturday Spectator, April 18, 1936

That in 1861, an old boarding house, located at Tenth and Chestnut Streets, was converted into the first Union station depot to accommodate the various railroad lines running in and out of Terre Haute? The cost of remodeling the building for this purpose was \$8,969.

That prior to the year of 1856, it was necessary for travelers from Terre Haute to St. Louis to go by way of Chicago? The completion of the Ohio and Mississippi railroad from St. Louis to Vincennes reduced the trip more than 100 miles than the circuitous route by way of Chicago.

That the first will found on record in Vigo County was made by William Winter? It was dated September 18, 1818, and was witnessed by James Jones, Martin Patrick, and Moses Haggart.

That the first record of any race track in Terre Haute was printed in the "Western Register and Terre Haute Advertiser", dated October 12, 1824? It told of the improvement of a breed of horses, and announced that on the third Friday in October, 1824, there would be a trial of the speed of the horses at the Harrison course near Markle's mill.

That when Axtell, the famous trotter who broke a world's record on the Terre Haute race course died in 1906, the burial trappings and services were quite impressive? A grave, large and square and six feet deep, was dug. Straw was put in the bottom, then Axtell's very best and very costly blanket was put over the straw. Then the horse was placed in the grave, with a fine white linen sheet wound about the head. Axtell's next best blanket was then laid over him, and the earth was filled in. Axtell was buried on the Warren Park Farm in August, 1906, having attained an age of nineteen years.

Saturday Spectator, October 5, 1945

That it took two years to get glass from England to the banks of the Wabash? The glass was for use in windows of the governor's mansion at "Saint Vincennes," then the seat of government in the Indiana Territory.

That there were only fifteen effective men in the Fort Harrison garrison during the Indiana attack when the besiegers numbered in the hundreds? Others of the force were sick or convalescent, and even Captain Zachary Taylor had barely recovered from the effects of fever which had been epidemic in the post.

Saturday Spectator, October 12, 1935

That Louis Hay, once sheriff of Vigo County, enlisted against the wishes of his father in the Union Army--at the age of 13? His father, seeing the son determined to fight, enlisted in the same regiment.

That Lost Creek is so named because it had no outlet to the Wabash? The creek spread over sand prairies and lost itself in a swamp. Eventually, it was conducted to the river by means of a big ditch.

That J.A. Foote's Terre Haute seed store was the only establishment of its kind in Indiana? Foote was an experimenter on the adaptability of varieties to soil and climate, and one of the first scientific seed dealers.

That Pierson township had a newspaper, the "Rural Hawkeye"? It lasted one year, being circulated in Centreville. "The composing, printing, and publishing" was done by the editorial staff of two people.

That there is a legend that Honey Creek takes its name from the loss of part of a bee tree in the stream by soldiers from Fort Harrison? It is said that the soldiers, camped on the banks of the creek on the night before the fight at Fort Harrison, discovered honey in a tree, and cut out that part of the tree, but the next day in attempting to remove the honey to the fort, lost it in the water, and hence the name.

Saturday Spectator, November 2, 1935


That graphic evidence of earthquakes of the dim past is frequently found hundreds of feet underground in local coal mines? Perhaps the most interesting of these signs of the slipping of the earth's crust was found in the Red Onion Mine No. 2, near Seelyville, where miners encountered a fault at which a vein of coal came to an abrupt end in fire clay. Five feet higher the vein continued, however, the stone roof being that much out of line at that point. Examples of slips are frequently found, although seldom of such a distance, and it is common in mines of the Wabash Valley to find coal and strata of stone, slate and earth several inches out of line.



ADDITIONS TO MUSEUM GROUNDS

New plantings are enhancing the Historical Museum grounds. Bonnie Engle deserves a huge "thank you" for her many hours spent planting annuals at the corner of 6th and Washington Streets, between the two Museum signs and also around the totem pole in the front yard. These will continue year after year to make the area more attractive. The Historical Society is especially grateful to three other ladies for providing funds to be used to purchase trees to beautify outdoor areas of the Museum. Mary Hooper has given a Dogwood tree; Marian Kintz, a Redbud tree, and Harriet McNeal, a Sycamore. To these people, we are most grateful for their interest in the Historical Museum.

APPRAISALS
ANTIQUES & RESIDENTIAL CONTENTS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



Jo Ann Rogers
MEMBER
American Society of Appraisers

PHONE 812-234-7996
AFTER 6:00 P.M.

P.O. BOX 3239
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47803

Want to make a dried apple doll?

Children, who are looking for an entertaining and creative summer afternoon, are invited to come to the Historical Museum on Saturday, August 24th. There, at 1:00 p.m., a workshop is planned for making dried apple dolls.

Since the program involves buying materials, there will be a \$2.00 charge for those attending. Youngsters from six years and older would most enjoy making the dolls.

It would be helpful to know the number attending ahead of time, so if you want to make a dried apple doll at the Museum, please call 235-9717.

It will be lots of fun!



MUSEUM NEEDS

With Spring's arrival and much outdoor work to be done, our requests are for an electric hedge trimmer, a long-handled garden spade, and a three-ring hole punch for the office.



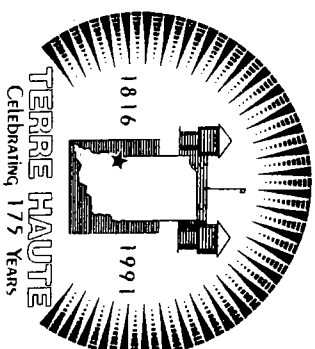
- May 31 "Friends of the Museum" trip to Indianapolis to view quilt exhibits. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Museum.
- June 8 Historical Museum Quilt exhibit begins. Crazy quilts will be featured. This is the "Year of the Quilt".
- June 15 New exhibit opening: "Victorian Advertising Envelopes", in the Vigo room.
- June 29 Crazy Quilt Program at the Museum. The speaker will be Karen Cochran Hassler, committee person for Indiana Quilt Registry. At 1:00 p.m.
- July 4 Independence Day. Museum is closed.
- July 13 "THE MAYFLOWER ROOM REMEMBERED - THE TERRE HAUTE HOUSE, 1945 TO 1959". Summer Celebration at 7:30 p.m. at Hulman Center. Plan to attend!!
- July 13-14 Museum is closed for Summer Celebration.
- July 17 Apron Workshop. "Friends of the Museum", 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Museum.
- August 24 Making Dried Apple Dolls. A fun afternoon for children--at the Museum, at 1:00 p.m.

VIGO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1411 South Sixth Street
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47802

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