

Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1757, Columbia MO 65202
<http://missourifolkloresociety.truman.edu>

Volume 41 Nos. 1-2

Spring 2017

Bootheel Bounty: From Swampland to Farmland



John and Carol Fisher write:

We are certainly looking forward to the 2017 Missouri Folklore Conference November 2-4. This year the conference will be held in Sikeston, Missouri at the Americas Best Value Inn & Suites. The address is 220 S Interstate Dr. We have all of the meeting rooms at the hotel reserved. We can have three simultaneous sessions if needed plus there is an additional room we can use for the book room. We have 40 rooms reserved until October 5. All rooms are suites. Some of the rooms have two bedrooms with a sitting area between. The price will be \$73.52 per room including tax. A continental breakfast is available for those staying at the hotel. Phone number: 573-471-9700 — tell them you are with the Missouri Folklore Society.

Some of the things we have lined up at this point:

Thursday Afternoon:

Quilting Demonstration & try your hand at quilting The plan is to have a quilt completed during the conference. It will then be bound, etc and sold at the 2018 auction.
Board Meeting

Dinner:

Speaker: Dr. Frank Nickell, State Historical Society of Missouri, Cape Girardeau-
“Bootheel History”

Jam session

Friday Morning:

Presentation sessions

Lunch:

Speaker: Jeff Grunwald, New Madrid Historical Museum Director

Friday Afternoon:

Sessions

Dinner:

Speaker: Andy Cohen, blues guitarist, Memphis, Tennessee

Auction/Jam Session

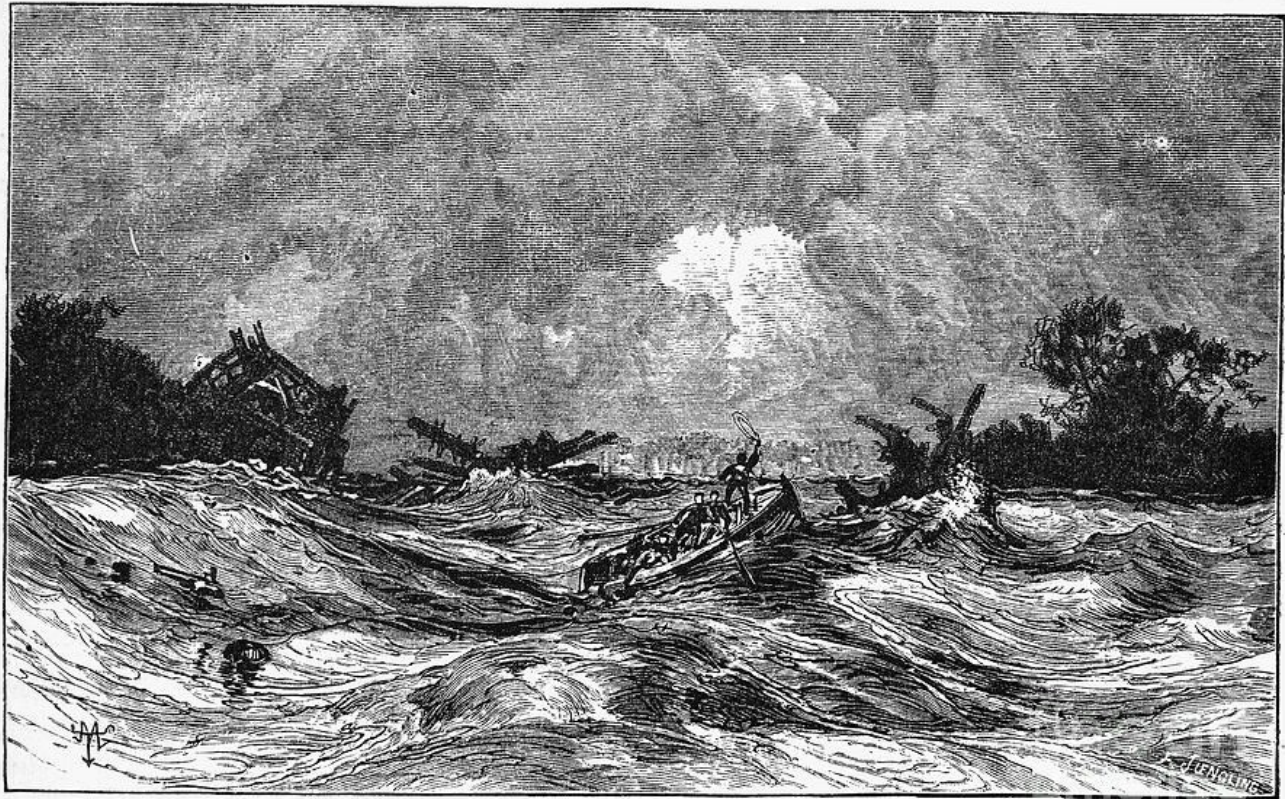
Saturday Morning:

Sessions

General Meeting

Lunch at Lambert's (not included in registration fee)





SCENE OF THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE IN THE WEST.

Other things we are working on:

Denise Dowling--Trail of Tears

Mike Comer, Site Director, Hunter-Dawson Home--Civil War

Front Porch Players--hammered dulcimer group

Barney Hartline and Terry Wright--friends of Jim Hickham. Radio show of folk music on local public radio

Demonstration of roping & Sikeston Jaycee Rodeo History

Rides in a mule drawn wagon

Display of cotton production photographs and other items (pick sack, cotton scales, etc.

Dulcimer maker--Gary Dudley

beekeeping presentation--Grant Gillard

line dancing class??--Lonny and Pauline Thiele

Patty House--presentation on Red Rover, first U. S. Navy hospital ship; built for Confederates in Cape Girardeau; captured at New Madrid and converted to hospital ship

All of those wonderful presentations made by attendees

A caterer has been secured to provide a soup & sandwich lunch Friday; exploring possibilities for Thursday and Friday evenings.

Area Museums and Places of Interest to Visit

Sikeston Depot Museum & Art Gallery
Sikeston historic homes
New Madrid Historical Museum--New Madrid
Hunter-Dawson State Historical Site--New Madrid
Star and Stripes Museum--Bloomfield
Veterans Cemetery and Civil War Cemetery--Bloomfield
Sharecroppers Demonstration Marker--Highway 60 east of Charleston
River Ridge Winery, Commerce, MO
Southeast Missouri State University Museum
Bollinger Mill State Historic Site
Trail of Tears State Park
Mingo National Wildlife Refuge--Puxico, Missouri
Big Oak Tree State Park--East Prairie, Missouri
Towosahgy State Historic Site--East Prairie, Missouri



Missouri Folklore Society
 Columbia, MO
 April 1, 2017
 Financial Statement Jan.1 to Dec. 31, 2016

INCOME

	2015	2016
Membership Dues	\$1,355.00	\$1,275.00
Annual Meeting	\$6,519.50	\$3,700.50
Donations, Grants	\$18.00	\$3,525.00
Sales	\$690.00	\$489.50
Interest	\$50.08	\$50.43
Miscellaneous Refund		
Total	\$8,612.58	\$9,030.53

EXPENSES

Journal Printing	\$4,869.71	\$5,838.81
Newsletter Printing		
Annual Meeting	\$5,446.39	\$7,823.44
Refunds		
Postage	\$639.17	\$1,083.94
Awards	\$165.87	
Supplies	\$122.74	\$40.00
Miscellaneous	\$20.00	
Total	\$10,955.27	\$14,786.19

Checking Account Balance 12-31-2015	\$23,613.20
CD 12-31-2015	\$18,921.86
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,618.96
Total Account Balance 12-31-2015	\$57,154.02

Checking Account Balance 12-30-2016	\$19,984.21
CD 12-30-2016	\$18,950.31
Schroeder Endowment Fund CD	\$14,640.94
Total Account Balance 12-30-2016	\$53,575.46

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Para

Minutes: Missouri Folklore Society Board Meeting,
Saturday April 1, 2017
Daniel Boone Public Library (Columbia)

Present: Adam Davis, Andrea Davis, Neal Delmonico, Sharon Brock, Jon Fisher, Carol Fisher, Linda McCollum, George McCollum, Don Carlson, Mim Carlson, Ken Burch, Janelle Burch, Lyn Woolz, Susan Bryson, Cathy Barton, Dave Para, LuAnne Roth, Meredith Rau, Brett Rogers, Sam Griffin

Benefit for Sam Griffin Mother's Day weekend; Cathy announces for Turner Hall in Boonville, May 13

Call to order 10:15: co-presidents Jon and Carol Fisher, Ken and Janelle Burch

Introductions

Minutes from November meeting in Kirksville (Thursday & Saturday sessions) 2016 Winner of the Adolf and Rebecca Schroeder Scholarship (\$125 award): Lewis N. Dunham (Truman State University), "Folklore of Coming Out Stories: Self-Realization and Self-Revelation" Resolution to issue check: moved Sharon Brock, passed.

Treasurer's report: Dave Para. Moved Linda McCollum, second Sharon Brock.

Plans for 2017 – John & Carol Fisher: Sikeston. Jon Fisher distributed a handout with notes on plans – 40 hotel rooms blocked off, \$73 w/ continental breakfast, meeting rooms for three concurrent sessions possible. Meals lining up. Quilting demonstration Thursday evening. Dr. Frank Nickell to speak on Thursday on Bootheel history. Jam session, then Denise Dowling from Trail of Tears State Park Friday morning. Jeff Grunwald on the New Madrid earthquake. Andy Cohen on Friday evening. We want him to bring his dulciola. Marimbula to be available to play. We need to start drumming up papers. Tom Neumyer is writing a book on Mississippi River ghost stories. Lambert's café doesn't take reservations, doesn't cater, doesn't take credit cards. Propose lunch after the Saturday meeting. Mike Comer (sp?) director of the Hunter Dawson home will present on Civil War uniforms. Barney Hartline and Terry Wright (friends of Jim Hickham's) will play. Front Porch Players (Hammered Dulcimers) Roping demonstrations by rodeo experts. Muledrawn wagon rides possible. Display of photographs related to cotton culture. Gary Dudley is a mountain dulcimer maker. Rev. Grant Dillard is a beekeeper. Pauline Thiele might give a line-dancing class. Brett on black schools and field-work. Adam will try to get in touch with SEMO again. We will comp students who show up. CFP should go out by beginning of May.

Plans for 2018 – Meredith Rau (Annie Fuller, co-president):
Washington, MO Meeting with director of tourism next week. Beginning to line up some events, perhaps a brewfest. Beautiful town, right on the train from St Louis to Jefferson City.

Publications report:

Journals: Adam Davis, Betsy Delmonico, Neal Delmonico

Betsy and Neal have finished 33/34 (2011/12) on public folklore. Ed by Lisa Higgins, about 168 pages. Essays by Rachel Gholson and Gladys Coggsell, and an interview with Howard Marshall. Adam reports that Jim Vandergriff would still like to work on his ancestress' civil war memoir, though his recovery is slow. Norma Cantu is still on for a collection of Latinx studies. Adam and LuAnne want to collate a collection on new folklore, new folklorists. Proceedings volume from Kirksville in the works. Neal notes that we usually have book reviews and obits. Lyn says it's editor's option. How to solicit book reviews? We need a book review editor. Adam can put a solicitation on the website. We need an obit for Ellen Grey Massey. Lyn is finishing the 40-year index to MFSJ. She has also been in touch with the EBSCO people. Problem remaining with back issues. This contract covers from Loretta's issue forward. Neal will be the contact person providing full text for the MLA. Adam to provide Jim's scans of the first seventeen issues. Previous editors who have .doc or .pdf files to be solicited.

Newsletter, Website, Missouri Folklore Studies – Adam Davis

Notes from Lyn Wolz: indexes, Ebsco/Hathi Trust; recording project Lyn reported on the recording project. The archives at Western Historical Manuscripts are in process of cataloguing, and many items have yet to be collected or filed, but it doesn't look good. Perhaps a grant to digitize and catalogue? Meanwhile, perhaps we ask those who have professional recordings to make them available.

Items from the floor:

Adam shared greetings from Jan Brunvand, Jim Vandergriff, and Carol reported on her recent visit with Becky.

Big Muddy tickets still available.

Amazing quilt exhibit in the library lobby.

John Fisher has a new book coming out April 23 on Missouri swampland conversion.

Adjournment 11:45 am

Adam Davis was interviewed by *Atlas Obscura* on the question of why we represent outhouse doors as having crescent-moon cutouts.

The screenshot shows the Atlas Obscura website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site logo, social media icons, and a date indicator for 'MAY 6'. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a list of categories: 'THE ATLAS', 'STORIES', 'EVENTS', and 'TRIPS'. A prominent advertisement for 'Fisher Investments' is displayed, featuring a man on a motorcycle and the headline 'Want to Retire Comfortably?'. The main article is titled 'Why We Think Outhouses All Had Crescent Moons in Their Doors' by Eric Grundhauser, dated March 28, 2017. The article includes a social media share button with 1,581 shares, a photograph of a wooden outhouse with a crescent moon cutout in the door, and a yellow sidebar advertisement for Expedia with the text 'See why Great Britain is the only place you need to go'. The article text below the photo states: 'The rickety old Wild West outhouse with a crescent moon cut out of the door is one of the most enduring symbols of the era. It's one of those images that you remember, but can't place exactly where you first saw it. Which isn't surprising, since it probably never existed.'

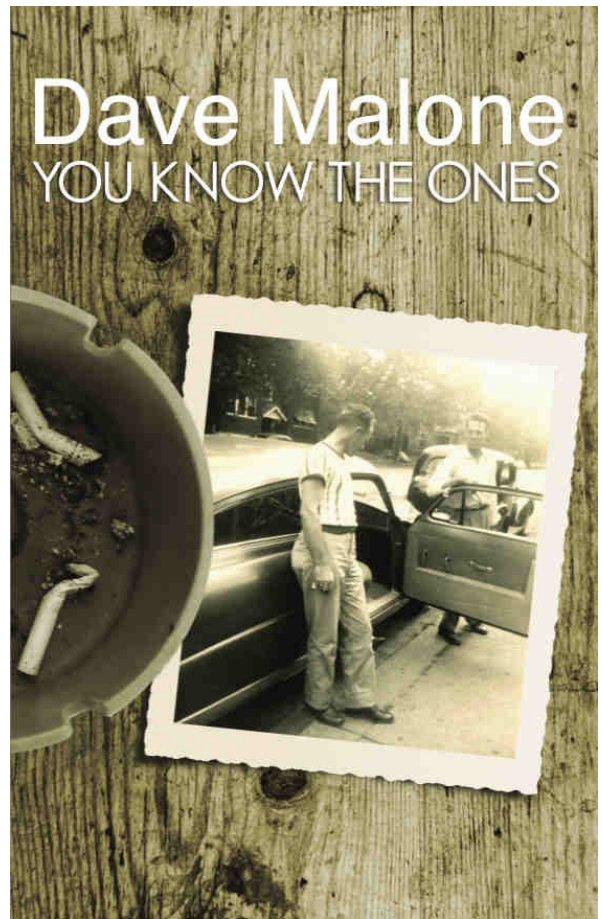
<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/outhouses-crescent-moons>

In addition to publishing MFSJ, Neal Delmonico operates Golden Antelope Press. He has graciously agreed to share samples of recent publications of special interest to Missourians and folklorists.

You Know the Ones (poetry) by Dave Malone. (Kirksville, MO: Golden Antelope Press, 2017) 69 pages, \$15.95 (available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble)

“Blind Swordsman”

Mr. Okamoto believed us musicians
as much as kids. With swift stroke of katana,
he drew the baton into blue sharpness.
If we were unruly children, he rapped
the long sword upon his music stand,
a deep black he must have loved.
In the sweltering gymnasium,
he baited us with Beethoven—
snagging even the smallest fish.



Live Free or Croak by Larry Rogers. (Kirksville, MO: Golden Antelope Press, 2017) 60 pages, \$14.95 (available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble)

Another Cigarette

When I was twelve
pedaling home from
the post office
I passed a naked lady
sitting on a porch
smoking a cigarette.

She was 40ish, pretty,
and I recognized her
almost immediately as
the lady who worked
part-time behind
the soda fountain at
Stewart's Drug Store.

Of course, I circled
the block. But when I
came back around she
wasn't there. And she
wasn't there the next
500 times I circled
that block over the years.

And she was never again
behind the soda fountain
at Stewart's Drug Store, either.

Get Back: Twelve Short Stories by Don Tassone. (Kirksville, MO: Golden Antelope Press) 84 pages. \$14.95 (available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble)

GOLDEN ANTELOPE

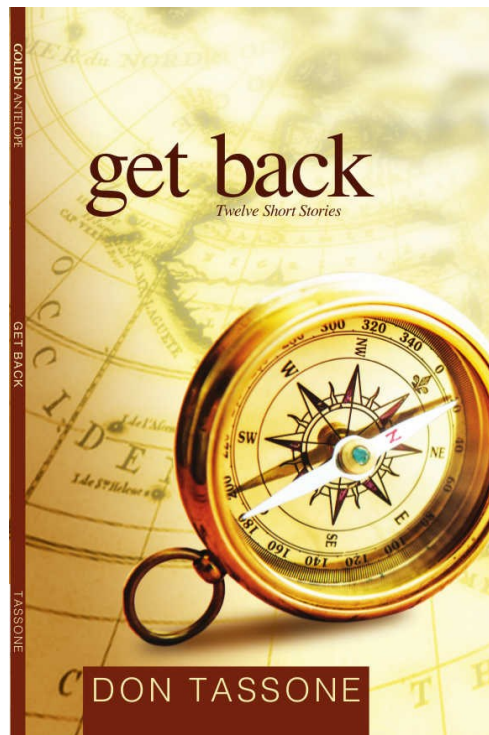
ANOTHER CIGARETTE

ROGERS

LIVE FREE OR CROAK



LARRY ROGERS



Hold On

a short story by Don Tassone

He drove a dark blue 1938 Buick Roadmaster. I wouldn't have known the year, the make or the model if my parents hadn't told me.

It was a relic. Whenever I saw it rolling down our street, I half expected gangsters to be hanging out of the windows, brandishing tommy guns. It didn't even sound like any other car on the road. All the cars I knew hummed or revved. This one clicked, like an egg timer.

But its driver seemed even more ancient and mysterious. We knew him only as Old Man Hopkins. None of us had ever met him. Even our parents called him Old Man Hopkins. He lived at the end of our street in a house that was much older than all the others in our neighborhood. Once in a while, I would see him driving past my house. Maybe it was those small car windows. But I never got a good look at him. This, of course, only added to the mystery.

* * *

In the summer of 1970, when I was twelve, I decided to make as much money as I could by cutting grass, and I went door to door looking for customers.

Old Man Hopkins' yard was huge, and it was a mess. So one morning, I psyched myself up, rode my bike down to the end of our street, walked up his long gravel driveway, climbed the steps to his front porch, took a deep breath and knocked on his door.

The front door opened. I could barely see him through the outer screen door. He looked smaller and even older than I expected.

"Yes?"

"Mr. Hopkins?"

"Yes?"

"My name is Bill. I live down the street. I was wondering if you might need someone to cut your grass."

"Do you mean you?"

"Yes."

"How much do you charge?"

"Three dollars."

"I have a pretty big yard."

"That's okay. I can handle it."

"I'll give you five. When can you cut it?"

"This afternoon," I stammered.

"Deal. I'll be here. Come see me when you're done."

I had never cut a yard so big. It took three hours and two tanks of gas. When I was finished, I knocked on the old man's front door. He stepped out on the porch and looked around.

"Nice job," he smiled.

"Thanks."

"I think you've earned a little more than five dollars today," he said, handing me a ten.

"That should cover your gas too."

"Thank you!"

"You're welcome. You thirsty?"

"Yeah."

"Hang on. I'll be right back."

In a minute, he came back out with a cold, eight-ounce bottle of Coke.

"Here you go."

"Thanks."

I chugged it.

"Can you cut my grass again next week?"

"Sure. What day is best?"

"Whatever works for you. I'm here all the time. Just knock when you're done, and we'll settle up."

"Sounds great. Thanks again, Mr. Hopkins," I said, making my way down his steps.

"See you next week, Bill."

I ended up cutting Mr. Hopkins' grass every Wednesday morning that summer. Nobody could believe it. I could hardly believe it myself. And what was even more incredible was that each time, when I was finished, Mr. Hopkins had lunch waiting for us on his front porch.

"I suspect I'm a bit of a mystery around here," he said the first time we sat down for lunch.

"Yeah, you might say that."

"Well, I understand," he grinned. "What would you like to know about me, Bill?"

His question caught me by surprise.

"How long have you had that car?"

It was a stupid question but the first thing that popped into my head.

"I bought it new in 1938. Would you like to see it?"

"Yeah."

After lunch, we walked the gravel path to a one-car garage behind his house. He struggled to lift the door, so I helped him push it up.

And there it was, like some rare antiquity on display in a museum.

"It looks so old," I blurted out.

"It is. But it still runs well."

"Is that why you've kept it?"

"No."

"Why then?"

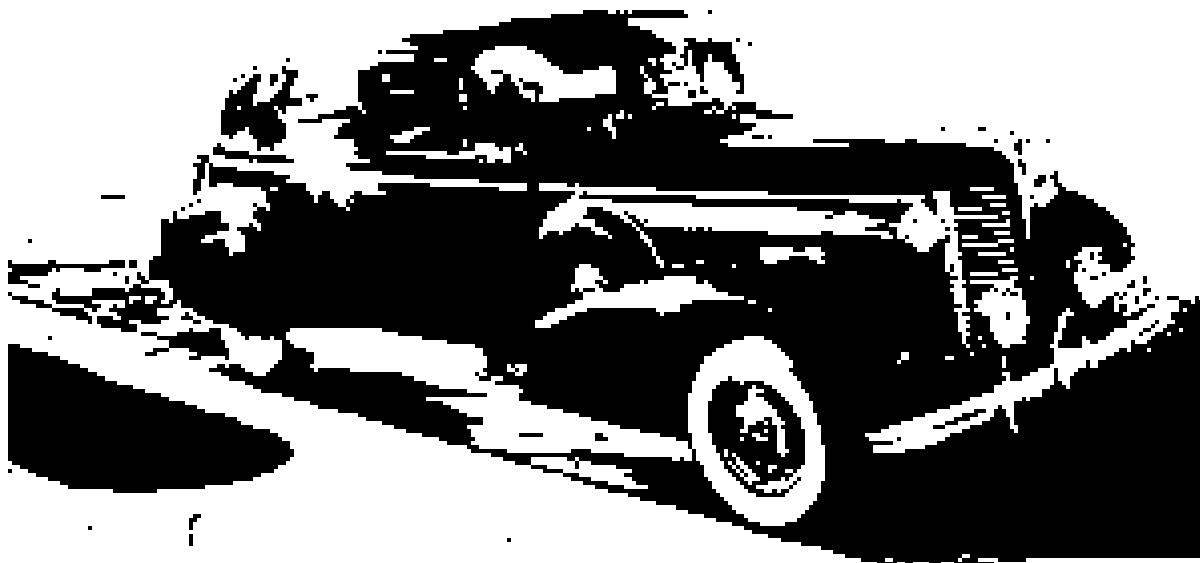
He told me he bought it when his son, his only child, was a boy and that he used to take his wife and son for long drives in the country on Sundays.
Then he told me that his son was killed during the war and that he lost his wife to cancer less than a year later. He had been living alone in that house ever since.
“I keep this car because it’s my only link with the two people I’ve loved most in this world,” he told me. “You hold on to what means the most.”
“I’m sorry for your loss,” I said.

“Thank you, Bill. Would you like to go for a ride?”
“Sure.”

And that’s the way it went every Wednesday that summer. I would cut Mr. Hopkins’ grass, he would serve us lunch and we would go for a ride in his Roadmaster.
When my friends found out, they wanted a ride too. Who wouldn’t want to ride in that car? I asked Mr. Hopkins. He said yes.
And so every Wednesday afternoon, my friends would pile into the back seat, and Mr. Hopkins, who seemed lit up by our oohs and ahs, would take us all for a ride. I always got to sit in the front.

* * *

That winter, Mr. Hopkins died. In his will, he stipulated that all his assets be sold and the proceeds given to charity.
Except one thing: his car. He gave that to me.
I keep it in my garage. I don’t drive it much, but it still runs well. And with my kids and their friends, it’s legendary.
You hold on to what means the most.



Ellen Grey Massey



The Missouri Folklore Society lost one of its stalwarts Sunday, July 13, 2014. Ellen Frances Gray Massey, of Springfield, Mo., formerly of Lebanon, Mo., passed away, in Springfield at 92 – an age few would have ascribed to the active and energetic person we had seen at the most recent MFS gatherings.

Ellen was born in Nevada, Mo., on Nov. 14, 1921, to Chester Harold and Pearl Welch Gray. She spent some time in Washington D.C. and acquired a bachelor's degree in English at the University of Maryland, before moving back to Missouri. She married David Lane Massey, but was widowed young. Left with small children to care for, she turned to teaching and writing. Both tireless and endlessly resourceful, she was able to make a secure home, and so much more.

Ellen was an extension home agent, a teacher, and a writer. From 1973-83 she supervised Bittersweet, a quarterly magazine about the Ozarks researched, written, and published by students in Lebanon High School, in the same tradition as the famous Foxfire series. Students learned to write and research by interviewing local elders, along the way gaining appreciation for, and preserving from eternal oblivion, the folkways of old Missouri. The magazine covered rope-making, wooden toys, and much more. There were biographical profiles of local characters and reminiscences of bygone customs and pastimes.

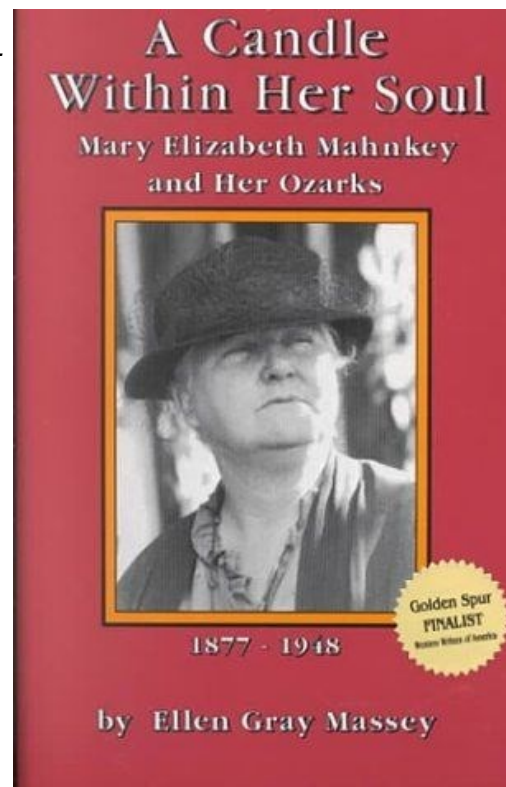
Ellen had 29 books and many short stories published and one play produced. She won several awards for writing, including being inducted in the Writers Hall of Fame of America in 1995, and the Lebanon Missouri Wall of Honor in 2012, and won the Western Writers Spur Award for her youth book "Papa's Gold." *Footprints in the Ozarks: A Memoir* was released in February 2012. Dedicated in loving memory of her husband, Lane, it is the story of Ellen's arrival in the Ozarks in the mid-1940s, her marriage, and raising three children on an Ozark farm – "Wayside."

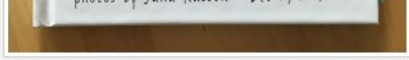
She is survived by a son, David Massey and his wife, Deborah, of Columbia, Mo.; daughters Ruth Massey, of Rogersville, Mo., and Fran Massey and her husband, John Bartolo, of Hobe Sound, Fla.; sister, Carolyn and her husband, Lester Thornton, of Nevada; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and -nephews, great-great-nieces and -nephews, two great-great-great-nieces, and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, David Lane Massey; mother and father-in-law, Arnett and Cora Massey; sisters, Miriam Gray, Kathryn Dudley, and Gertrude Toth; and brothers, Harold, Ralph, and Vernon Gray. Burial was in Mt. Rose Memorial Park.

In addition to *Bittersweet* (published first as a magazine and then in book form, 1979), titles include:

Papa's Gold (2013)
Footprints in the Ozarks: A Memoir (2011)
Morning in Nicodemus (2009)
Her Enemies Blue and Gray (2008)
New Hope (2004)
Family Fun and Games: A Hundred Year Tradition (2001)
The Burnt District (2001)
Borderland-Homecoming (2000)
Music of My Soul (1998)
And Tyler, Too? (1998)
Home is the Heart (1998)
A Candle Within Her Soul (1995)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_Gray_Massey





All of us who tediously made these Pieces of Art could at least have a book of Pictures.
Then I had the bright idea of inviting The Quilters to submit their Stories of their Quilts.



To Order a Book for yourself contact jana@janaphotos.com



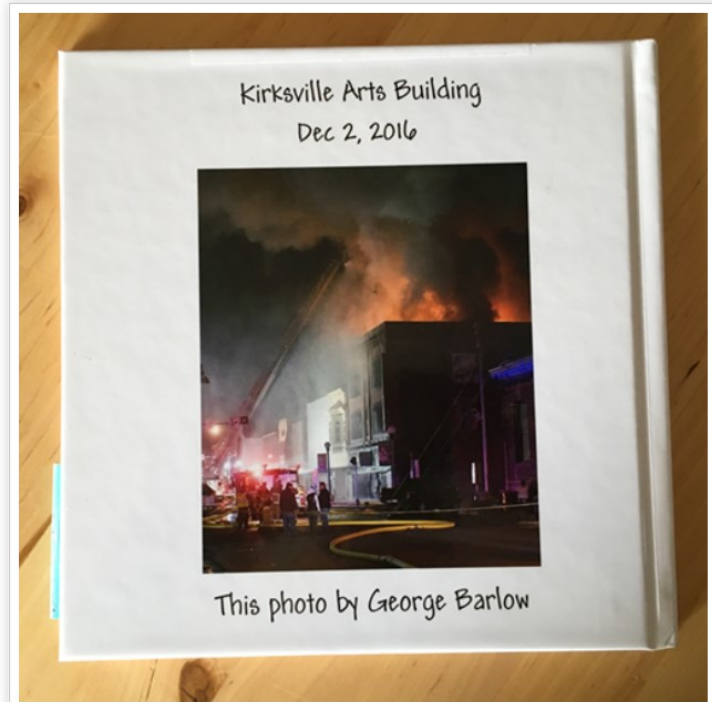
To Order a Book for your dear friend, who is a quilter contact jana@janaphotos.com



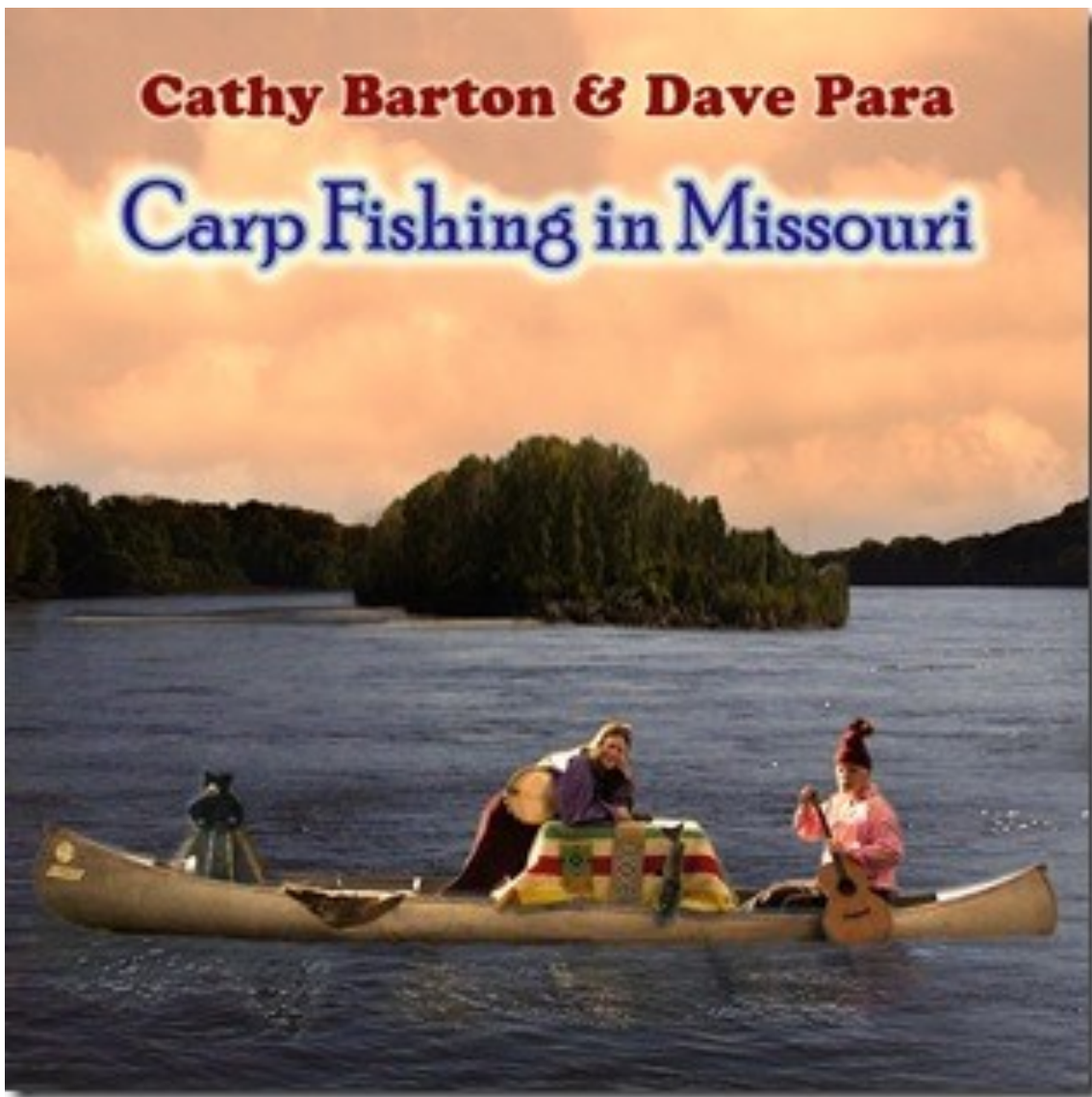
If you like this Book, Order yours by emailing jana@janaphotos.com

Photographer and MFS member Jana Russom has brought out *The Last Exhibit*, a book of images from the quilt collection sadly destroyed in the Kirksville Arts Association fire — just days after we had dismantled the exhibition organized by Betsy Delmonico for the 2016 meeting.

Jana spoke at the Kirksville meeting about her rural Missouri blog. Visit it at <http://janarusson.blogspot.com/> and get a preview. The first edition sold out quickly, and a second will soon be ready. When quilters heard of the project, they sent in stories of the works that had been lost, they wrote in with stories about the making of these works of art, and even in-process photos. You can order your copy by emailing her at jana@janaphotos.com



Brand new CD...



As close to an instrumental album they're going to get featuring Cathy on banjo and hammered dulcimer and Dave on guitar, playing a mix of fiddle tunes learned in Missouri long ago as well as those more recent gifts acquired at annual trips to Carp Camp at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield. With old and new friends featured on fiddles, mandolins, guitars, bass, piano and percussion we arrange 35 tunes in 17 tracks. Yes, there are four songs, too. Hear some clips and order from our website <http://bartonpara.com/bp/index.php/music/>

Big Muddy Festival 2017

The 26th Big Muddy Folk Festival was a large success April 7-8, and the roster was about as good as Cathy Barton and Dave Para are going to come up with. Almost all were new to the festival and represented a wide definition of folk music, and we were able to make some good collaborations for thematic workshops. On the traditional side, Liz Carroll and Jimmy Keane came down from Chicago for some powerful Irish tunes, and Mark Bilyeu and Cindy Woolf, aka. the Creek Rocks, came up from Springfield for some modern takes on traditional Ozark songs. Cathy Barton and Dave Para also presented some old songs as well as fiddle tunes from their new album, copies of which arrived on their front porch the day before the festival. Nashville songwriter David Olney, whose songs are more famous than his name, was a fine surprise to the audience with his superbly crafted songs and delivered in a pretty traditional style so you could hear the words well. Super guitarist Pat Donohue of "Prairie Home Companion" fame paid homage to the finger-style masters who inspired him and entertained the crowd with wit and warmth. The Adobe Brothers from Albuquerque, a longtime group of friends played a nice mix of fiddle tunes and old songs and original songs with the kind of laid-back creativity our audiences enjoy. Artemisia is an a cappella trio from Chicago whom a friend put Dave on to with a nice repertoire of traditional American folk songs and they made a great impression. Also two members of the original Ozark Mountain Daredevils, Randle Chowning and Larry Lee came up from Springfield with David Wilson and did a nice set of original songs. Including their two hits didn't make them a nostalgia band, much to our satisfaction. They did a workshop with the Creek Rocks with a continued tradition sense. Songster Phyllis Dale, recovering from a broken femur last September, did a great sing-along with the Adobe Brothers. With a high artistic level and a real connection to our musical traditions, this was one of our best.



The *a cappella* trio *Artemisia* at their Saturday morning workshop on world vocal styles.



Cathy Barton and Dave Para with the Creek Rocks, Mark Bilyeu and Cindy Woolf, doing a workshop on interpreting songs from Ozark collections. The duo has recently done an album of songs from the collections of Max Hunter and John Quincy Wolf.

<http://bartonpara.com/bp/index.php>

<http://www.thecreekrocks.com/>



The great accordion master Jimmy Keane holding forth with some Irish tunes. He accompanied fiddled Liz Carroll at the festival.



Dave Para writes: *This is our album premier workshop on Saturday with Carp Camp friends helping us out. We're playing the theme from "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" which is more than suitable for the leaf.*

Big Muddy 2017

Make plans now to be in Boonville next April!



Thespian Hall c. 1869
Earliest known photograph of Thespian Hall.
Taken c. 1869 by James C. Macurdy

