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The Bemis Story

Where Industry and Friendliness Blend Into Progress

A publication of the Bemis Historical Society – www.bemishistory.org

Winter2010

Donation!



L to R: Anita Roark, BHS Chairman; Dr. Bob Raines.

At the February meeting of the Bemis Historical Society, Dr. Bob Raines made a special presentation. In honor of his uncle, James McHaney Raines, a \$4,000 unrestricted donation was made by The Raines Family to the Society. In attendance that night were Dr. Raines' wife, Kate Hammond, and his parents, Bill & Ora Belle Raines.

The donation will be recognized on the Major Donors' Plaque which is permanently displayed in the entryway of the museum. The plaque recognizes one-time monetary or in-kind donations of \$1,000 or more. The Society is very grateful to the Raines family for this generous donation that will enable us to continue our museum work.

Auditorium Curtain Ordered!

Have you missed the old "theatre look" of our museum? Do you yearn for the days when a lovely, long curtain hung in front of the stage area? Well get ready, because a curtain is coming back and should be installed by Bemis Days!!

Thanks primarily to the hard work of Richard Fisher, the board has approved a budget and ordered a new dark green velour curtain for the museum, very similar in color to what hung there originally. In addition to the curtain, we are investing in a new tracking and rigging system to ensure that the curtain is hung safely and securely. We are working with professionals from Mainstage Theatrical Supplies, Inc., out of Memphis on this project.

Not only will the new curtain provide a "theatre" atmosphere, it will also allow us to more efficiently provide heating and cooling for our monthly meetings. Society members will be able to meet in the stage area, utilizing only *one* of the three heating & air units. In addition, this may open new doors of being able to rent just the stage area for groups who need only a little space.

When you see Richard Fisher, give him your heart-felt thanks. And be sure to come for Bemis Days to see our lovely new curtain (we'll run a photo in the next newsletter)!

Bemis Days:

May 21-22, 2010

Mark the dates! Friday and Saturday, May 21-22, 2010, will be the dates of this year's Bemis Days celebrations. A detailed outline of events will come to you in a newsletter in early May. In the meantime, here are some general details:

- Friday's events will run from 5-9PM;
Saturday's events start at 10AM and will run through mid-afternoon.
- **NEW: A \$5 minimum donation will be charged for those who attend the musical events inside the museum on Friday night.** (Children 12 and under will continue to be free.) As always, donations go toward continued rehabilitation of our museum building as well as work on exhibits.
- We are honored to have W.S. Holland and his new band providing that great Rock-A-Billy music from 7-9PM on Friday. Watch your next newsletter for additional musical acts that will come earlier in the evening.
- Gaylon & Betty Cooper have again generously offered to provide fundraiser bar-b-que dinners on Friday and lunches on Saturday.

So mark those dates, and watch for more to come in an early May newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Donations

We gratefully acknowledge the donation received from the following supporter:

Waring Hazlehurst

Miniature Cotton Gin

Provides "Interactivity" for Exhibit



The Society board recently approved the purchase of a miniature cotton gin which will be used in the Technology & The Bemis Mill exhibit. The gin was designed and built by Diversified Design in Weatherford, TX. They had designed the cotton gin specifically for Farm Bureaus that used them to interactively demonstrate the ginning process, especially to school children. We were able to purchase the very last gin to be made.

This gin will play an integral part in helping children, as well as adults, understand basic ginning processes. Many thanks to Joel Jackson who discovered and investigated this wonderful teaching tool and brought it to the board's attention!

Cotton Boll Remembrances

Cotton Boll Remembrances are memorials and honorariums given at the \$500 level of giving. The following Cotton Boll Remembrances have recently been made:

In Memory of Elihu and Martha Wright

by Margaret and J.T. Webb

In Memory of Earl & Martha Cupples

by Bobby, Peggy, Gina & Bill Cupples

In Honor of the Earl & Martha Cupples Family

by Bobby, Peggy, Gina & Bill Cupples

Recent Honorariums/Memorials

The following memorials have been recently made:

In Memory of Gloris Dean Allen

Bemis Historical Society

Anita Ruth Roark

In Memory of L.B. Babb

Bemis Historical Society

In Memory of Charles S. (Buddy) Barry

Bettye M. Morris

Bemis Historical Society

In Memory of Ralph Haltom

Sue Roark

In Memory of Oleta Lowrance

Richard & Linda Higgins

In Memory of Tillie Nesbitt

Anita Ruth Roark

In Memory of Forest L. Stewart, Jr.

Bemis Historical Society

Material Donations

We are grateful for the following material donation that has been generously given:

External USB 2.0 Hard Drive
by Joe & Sue Roark.

Artifact Donations

1972 SUN Sesquicentennial of Jackson
Edition- "Bemis Growth" Story
Three West Drugs Calendars
Wayne "Squirrel" Rogers
Sunday School Diploma from Bemis
Methodist Church signed by J.B. Young

Nina Young

30 Year Gold Pin

Billy Moore Walters

Frogmoore Map showing BEMIS

Joel Jackson

3 Bemistorys

11 "Bemis Employee News"

Anetha Perkins

Brown Felt Company Store Hat

Josh Herriman

Larry Mills Scrapbook

Wally Mills

Dr. Smythe Office Collection
Clark Shaw of Old Country Store
Circa 1943 Theater Crowd 8X10
Wells & Lassiter ½ Pint Milk Bottle

John D. Carden

"When the Tinsel is all Gone"

Poem/ Framed

1978 Radio Narration

"Bemis Memories"

"The Magic of Memory Lane" Poem

Raymond K. Brasher

Commemorative Mill Plate

6 ft. Pick Sack

9 ½ Pick Sack

Bill "Birdo" Lassiter

3 Ball Team photos

Billiard Tournament Plaque

Checker Tournament Plaque

Patsy Davidson Elkins

1939 Bemis High Composite

From Estate of Estella Wilson

Marion Wilson

1962 Y Girls Basketball Photo

Jackson Fire Truck at Morton's area Fire

Rusty, Richie & Gina Askew

Ortha Lee Baxter Glenn Jennings

Autobiography

Linda Jennings Higgins

Ear Plugs from Spinning Room

Raymond Jackson

Circa 1923 Official Bemis Photo Album

33 Photos

Walter Helms

via Sister Mary Jane Tapley

"50 Years in the Life of a Community"

"Bemis Beams with History"

by Anna Lue Cook for SHELBY TIMES

1950 Trifold "50th Celebration" Program

Allen Kelly

6 ½ ft. Duradot Bemis Pick Sack

Nina Ivy Bell & Dave Bell

2 -1987 Meows

8- Coach Jones Ball Team Photos

Billy S. & Brent Jones

Special Thanks

We would like to offer special thanks to the following members:

- Frank Murchison & Jimmy Mitchell who replaced our break room ceiling when it was recently destroyed by water damage from a broken sprinkler pipe.
- Joel Jackson & Joe Roark for spending several hours shop vacuuming water off the museum floor after the sprinkler leak.
- Andy Roark for downloading 126 Bemis Historical Society programs from fragile & deteriorating video tapes to a USB hard drive. Then for backing up those programs on a separate hard drive to ensure that the Society will always have access to these wonderful and historical programs.
- Dennis Hays for turning the water on and off, before and after each Society meeting to prevent freezing pipes.
- Joel Jackson for patiently turning up the heat a few degrees at a time all day long on the days of our meetings so that we do not incur hundreds of dollars in “demand” utility charges.

The Bemis Historical Society meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM at the Bemis Mill Village Museum building. Join us any month to find out more about Bemis, our museum project, and just to visit with current and former Bemis residents. You will be welcomed! Be sure to mark your calendar for this special event:

Dues are Due!

It's that time of year again! Your \$25 membership dues are now due and payable. Remember that the \$25 in dues is for a whole family – what a bargain! You can pay at our monthly meetings, or just drop a check in the mail made out to the BHS. Mail it to: Bemis Historical Society, P.O. Box 9266, Jackson, TN 38314-9266. We appreciate your support!

The Bemis Historical Society
P. O. Box 9266
Jackson, TN 38314-9266

Attend a Society Meeting!