



Field Notes

THE EUGENE FIELD HOUSE & ST. LOUIS TOY MUSEUM

National Historic Landmark • City of St. Louis Landmark • National Register of Historic Places



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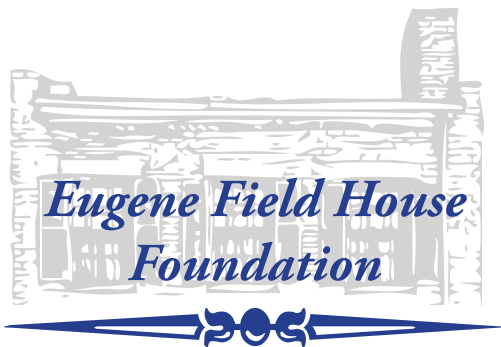
The Roswell & Eugene Field House Museum Breaks Ground

The Eugene Field House Foundation is proud to announce that a groundbreaking ceremony took place on April 24, 2015, for the 4,000 square foot addition that will be north of the current historic house. The ceremony was the culmination of Phase 1 of the Field House Museum Capital Campaign, which successfully raised money for the construction of the new facility. The highlights of the addition will include a multi-purpose exhibit space, dedicated library and conference space, along with expanded gift shop and handicap accessibility to the first floor of the historic house museum.

Many supporters, community members, and dignitaries attended the ceremony to help the Foundation celebrate this momentous occasion, including the Honorable Mayor Francis

Slay, who spoke of the importance of the museum expansion to the overall growth and development in the downtown community. Thank you to all who attended and were a part of this very exciting new chapter in our history!





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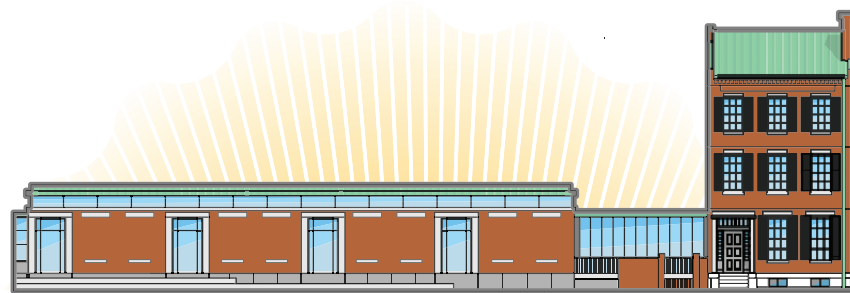
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The Roswell & Eugene Field House Museum Becomes a Reality

We are thrilled to announce our success in fulfilling Phase 1 of the Campaign for the Roswell & Eugene Field House Museum, *where inspiration has a home*. Due to the generosity of many Field Family Members and Friends, we were able to reach the \$1 million matching gift challenge from longtime private donors, and celebrated the occasion with a groundbreaking ceremony. With these wonderful pledges and gifts, we have confidently begun the construction process for the 4,000 square foot addition this summer, with a hopeful expectation of welcoming our friends and guests in the first quarter of 2016!



During construction, we eagerly seek to fulfill Phase 2 of the campaign, which will help in the completion of outside landscaped areas, and restoration of the historic house's second and third floors with new room exhibits.

The Board of Trustees and Staff greatly appreciate your kind support of Phase 1 of the Capital Campaign, and want to thank you for the powerful message you have sent to the St. Louis community about supporting historical house museums. Please help us reach out to others and spread the exciting news about this important growth initiative, and we look forward to updating you on our progress in the upcoming months.



The Campaign for the Roswell & Eugene Field House Museum Donors

The Eugene Field House Foundation would like to thank all the donors listed below, as well as those who wish to keep their contributions anonymous.

Susan L. Abernathy	Karen L. Klohr
John L. and Carolyn Anderson	Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Konneker
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The Eugene Field House is now on Facebook

The Eugene Field House is going social! Like us on Facebook to see the latest news and what's going on at the museum. Learn about everything from current exhibits and gift shop products to our weekly post called "Field Fact Friday" where you can learn new and interesting facts about the Field Family!



The Eugene Field House Joins a Day of Giving

This year The Eugene Field House partook in Give STL Day, an event where locals donate to area foundations they care about most. Sponsored by the Greater St. Louis Community Foundation on May 5, 2015, Give STL Day is a 24 hours of giving event for 528 organizations in the St. Louis area. The Eugene Field House will use its donations to help support the Campaign for the Roswell & Eugene Field House Museum.



Hal Holbrook Returns in *Mark Twain Tonight!*

The Eugene Field House was once again proud to welcome Mr. Hal Holbrook back to St. Louis for an encore performance of his one-man show, *Mark Twain Tonight!* at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on April 11, 2015. Mr. Holbrook took the stage to become Mark Twain as he recounted anecdotes from Twain's life and parts of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank our event chairperson, Taylor McMullin, for his tireless dedication and amazing energy in bringing this show back for a successful fundraiser. An additional thank you to Mrs. Jane P. Gleason, for hosting a spectacular evening reception that allowed our Field Family guests an up-close and personal visit with Mr. Hal Holbrook. And, finally, to all those who bought VIP tickets, helped with arrangements with props, advertising & promotions, logistics...the list is endless...A Big Bravo for everyone who helped make this show a Success!!

Maplewood Library



The Eugene Field House was excited to partner with the Maplewood Public Library for another exhibit called "Dolls Around the World". The Exhibit featured dolls from Margaret Shapleigh's



astounding collection created through her many travels. The exhibit was on display for the month of May and was seen by almost 3,000 library patrons.



For more information about the Maplewood Library visit:

www.maplewood.lib.mo.us/index.htm
7550 Lohmeyer Ave. Maplewood, MO 63143
314-781-READ

Holiday Surprise!

By Marianne Gleich

Although this surprise package arrived last December, we are pleased to have an opportunity to report about it at this time. The FedEx driver had no idea of the special delivery he was making and that the item would become a treasure among the archives in the Eugene Field collection. Inside the package was a four page manuscript, likely unpublished, written in Eugene's own hand on extremely fragile paper. The story of how this gift came about is interesting in itself ...



have proper archival storage. I assured him that would be the case and now, with the expansion of the House Museum and the addition of the Eugene Field special collection library, this will soon be a reality.

A little over a year ago, Mel died and Nancy wanted to be sure that the Eugene Field House became owner of the manuscript and that it did not stay at the Newberry, all according to Mel's wishes. And so it has happened. In a few months, the document will be housed in its new permanent home at the House.

Readers may wonder how it came to be that Mel ended up with such a special piece of Fieldiana. Mel's grandfather was a journalist in Chicago, at the Chicago Daily News, and worked alongside Eugene where the two became friends. As Eugene was sometimes known to be generous with unpublished manuscripts, he gave this one to Mel's grandfather who kept it and eventually gifted it to Mel. Mel's name even has a close connection to Eugene. Mel was named after Eugene and Julia's son Melvin Gray.

With heartfelt appreciation, we thank Nancy for carrying out Mel's wishes and we are indebted to Mel for his far-sightedness.

Many years ago, probably 20 or a bit more, I was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of a lovely couple in Chicago, Nancy and Melvin C. Richards. Mel had written the House inquiring about membership and I responded with a phone call and the rest is history. Following that contact, both Nancy and Mel generously supported the House by attending fundraisers in St. Louis, among other contributions.

My husband and I visited with the Richards in Chicago and together we went to the Newberry Library where Mel had placed this manuscript for safe keeping. The librarian showed us the manuscript and assured us it would be cared for very well. Over the ensuing years, Mel and I discussed the possibility of him donating the manuscript to the House but Mel had a valid concern. He wanted to be sure that this treasure would



Eugene's Star Still Shines Bright

Since its creation in 1989, the St. Louis Walk of fame in the Delmar Loop has honored St. Louisans who have contributed to American culture. So it is no surprise that Eugene is on the Walk of Fame for his contributions to children's literature. Eugene's star, which is located at 6315 Delmar, was placed in 1991, and has since reminded St. Louisans of his legacy.

A commemorative plaque for Eugene Field on the St. Louis Walk of Fame. The plaque is dark red with gold lettering and features a portrait of Eugene Field. At the top, it lists categories: Inductees, Location of Stars, Nomination Criteria, and Induction Ceremony. Below the portrait, it provides a detailed biography of Eugene Field, mentioning his birth in 1869, his work as a reporter for the St. Louis Evening Journal, and his famous column 'What I please on any subject I please.' The plaque also mentions his children's verses and his legacy as a journalist and author.

WELCOME MEMBERS

The Eugene Field House Board of Trustees and the Staff would like to thank the following members who have continued to support the mission, preservation, and programming of the foundation with their generous membership donations.

~ *New Members* ~

September 2014 - July 2015

Ms. Jill Gilbert

Ms. Eleanor Heagney

Ms. Phyllis Steimke

~ *Renewing Members* ~

September 2014 - July 2015

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HONORARIA, MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

September 2014 - July 2015

~ *Memorials* ~

In memory of Rev. Harvey L. Puckett:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dyer

In memory of Frances Walrond:

Mrs. Jane P. Gleason

Marianne & Peter Gleich

Ms. Karen Klohr

Ms. Carol Ann Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald O'Gorman

In memory of Stephen Gleich:

Mr. & Mrs. Curt Richards

Drs. Michael & Soraya Wolverson

In memory of Nancy McMullin:

Marianne & Peter Gleich

~ *Honorariums* ~

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald O'Gorman
in honor of Peter & Marianne Gleich

~ *Donations* ~

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Mrs. Betty Donahoe

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Ms. Karen Klohr

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of the Greater Saint Louis Community
Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. William R. Piper

Mr. & Mrs. William Schneck

Frances Kerber Walrond – In Appreciation By William R. Piper



I wanted to start this piece with a description of how I first met Fran Walrond and the initial impression she left but I find myself baffled. She was so integral to the operation of the Eugene Field House and my memories of so many years of that, first as a board member and, of course,

later as the Director and Executive Director, that she always seemed to have a hand in it for the 30 or so years I have been involved.

I remember that in the process of brainstorming for new board members Fran's name came up amid mentions of the Hawken House and dolls (especially the latter). At the time, we felt ourselves in great need of more expertise in the doll and collection management area than we'd had. An approach was made and (thankfully) accepted and Fran began her major involvement with the House. This would continue until her retirement and never really ended until this year.

Before going too much further, it should be emphasized that Fran was part of a team, something I don't feel I've given as much credit to as should have been done over the years. Bob Walrond has been as supportive a spouse as anyone could ever want and real trouper, to boot. To illustrate, I have to expand a bit. Many of you will

have heard my remarks at the recent groundbreaking of the image of Fran looking out the north window on the first floor in contemplation of what we hoped to achieve. My most enduring image of Bob (and Fran) is one of being in the basement at an insane hour of the morning with the three of us madly slogging about in ankle-deep water rescuing parts of the collection from Mrs. Field's insistence on adequate fire protection. A new breaker panel had shorted out, shooting sparks much farther than we'd been told we needed to be concerned about and igniting a small fire, which was rapidly extinguished. However, the cure rapidly began to be worse than the danger. To end quickly, we were drenched, almost everything which had been in any danger was saved, and we had a first-class story to tell. The point is that it was remarkable to watch Fran and Bob work as a team, both attending to doing what needed to be done and not complaining about the circumstances. The last few years, Bob's had much he could have chosen to complain about but he has always chosen the better course, unfailingly helping his spouse through a great deal of thick and thin.

I sometimes wonder if Bob was a bit jealous of the House, for it consumed a great deal of Fran's attention, both during regular work hours and when she could easily have taken the attitude that she'd "punched out" for the day. But punching out was not Fran's way. Whatever the job required, that is what it got.

Kathleen Burns – Past Memories By Marianne Gleich



The Eugene Field House Museum lost one of its very special members this past year. Kaye Burns was a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees for well over 20 years, often seen working on the third floor of the museum pouring over membership lists,

verifying addresses and hand writing notes of thank you to members far and wide. As co-chairman of the membership committee, Kaye was instrumental in growing the membership of the House and in maintaining contact with those important supporters. She imbued her strong feelings for the House in other members of her family. Kaye and her husband Francis were among the first to attend the numerous events in support of the House, always encouraging

others to do the same. Daughter Patricia is currently serving as a Trustee, thus continuing the longtime family involvement.

Kaye loved history and historic preservation, two reasons she became a board member. With strong ideals and beliefs, Kaye let her thoughts be known and people listened, paying close attention to what she said. Such was her way that she spoke after careful deliberation and if necessary, investigation, always putting forth her beliefs in an organized and deliberate manner, rare traits in this day.

It is with a sad heart that we say to her large and delightful family, thank you for sharing your charming mother, grandmother and great-grandmother with us. We will all miss her!



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Vintage Vinyl Floorcloths

Inspired by old floor cloths and vintage linoleum, these vibrant floor cloths offer warm colors with beautiful aging. Great in kitchens, baths, and offices, they can be used in controlled outdoor settings, or in a screened in porch. Soon to be at The Sugar Plum Tree Gift Shoppe, this new product line is created by Kolene Spicher and the Artists of the Design Loft in Central Pennsylvania. Available in various designs and sizes.

