

# Field Notes

THE EUGENE FIELD HOUSE & ST. LOUIS TOY MUSEUM  
National Historic Landmark • City of St. Louis Landmark • National Register of Historic Places

1936 ~ 2011 • Volume 18 - Number 1

Spring 2011

## 75th Anniversary Historic House Museum Celebration



On a cold winter day on December 18th in 1936, a large group of supporters opened the doors of a new institution, The Eugene Field Shrine. In attendance were two of Eugene & Julia Field's grown children: Ruth Gray Field Foster and Eugene Field II; along with one of the men instrumental in saving the home, Jesse P. Henry.



The 75th Anniversary of how the Eugene Field House came into existence and the many years of generous support by family and friends of the historic boyhood home of the Children's Poet is the focus of our newest exhibit throughout the house. There is memorabilia of the Shrine and many Field Family pieces throughout the museum. Come see the original 1936 guestbook, Eugene's surviving toys and much more!

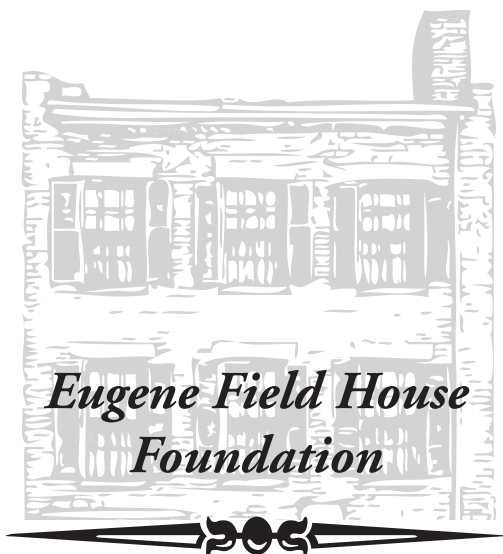
Along with our commemoration, two other long-time St. Louis organizations will be celebrating their anniversaries. The Eugene Field Questers #151 will be celebrating 50 years of supporting the preservation and restoration of artifacts and buildings in the St. Louis area. And, local business, Daniel & Henry Company, will be observing 90 years; founded by Carl P. Daniel and Jesse P. Henry, both of these outstanding gentlemen were instrumental in helping save the Eugene Field House from demolition.

Now is the time to visit, come share your memories with us!



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### *From the President...*

Sometimes stories which are so good they ought to be so actually are the truth. The thought that we are now in our 75th year as a place of visitation for the public brings to mind the spectacle of Jesse Powell Henry's reaction to Irving Dilliard's wonderful piece in the Post-

Dispatch chiding people for being so unmindful of their history that they were willing to let all of Walsh's Row (and especially 634 S. Broadway) be bulldozed in the name of ephemeral "progress". The fact that such "progress" still hasn't materialized in our block of the city is fodder for a broadside better fired elsewhere but I think it'll do to comment how the well-meaning sometimes are carried away in their enthusiasm, to put it charitably.

To get back to the story, for those of you who aren't familiar with it (or just like repetition), Mr. Henry was going over the paper upon retiring for the evening and was galvanized by Irving's piece, leaping out of bed and giving his wife the very strong impression that he was going to race downtown in his pajamas and confront the wrecking crews. Mrs. Henry, being somewhat more level-headed on this point, remarked that it would probably wait until morning since demolition typically wasn't done in the dark, the wisdom of which Mr. Henry eventually conceded, and retired. However, thereafter he and his associates at Daniel and Henry, the company which is still a good friend of the House, were front and center in the effort to preserve the structure we still strive to maintain.



As I've often observed (though certainly didn't invent), you truly can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been. That's a big part of what we're all about here – how people lived, how they played, what they generated, what we can do with all of it to pass it along to those yet to come so they understand how we lived, too and why we took our actions and how it causes echoes in their time. Let us know how we're doing and what we can add. It's all for a good cause and work that is truly rewarded by the opportunity to do more. A Happy New Year to each of us from all of us.

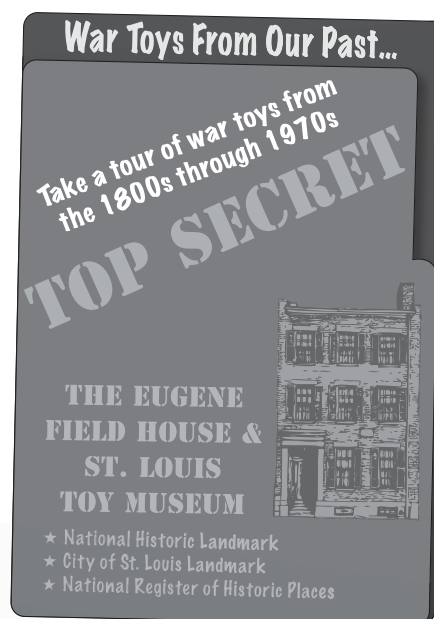
*William R. Piper*

William R. Piper  
President

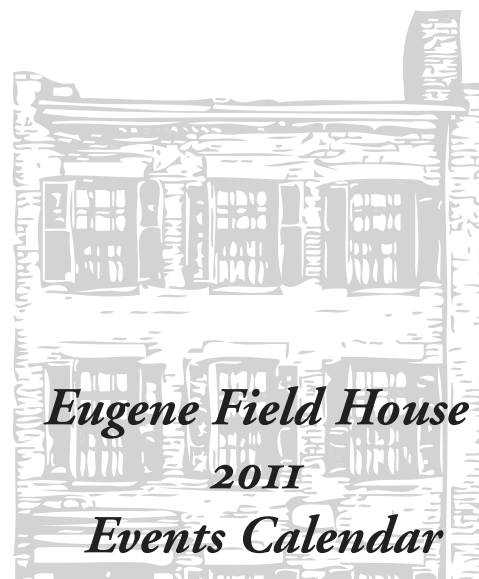
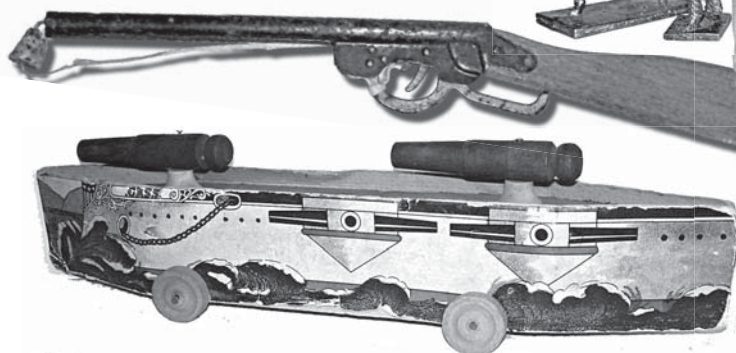




## Top Secret: War Toys from our Past



Attention! The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum is calling all children young and old to its newest toy exhibit: "Top Secret: War Toys from our Past." Come visit your old toy soldiers and other war toys. On display are pieces depicting the American Revolution through the Vietnam War. Open through August 2011, this exhibit is great for all ages!



## Eugene Field House 2011 Events Calendar

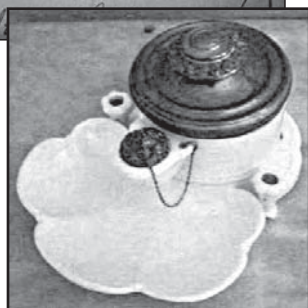
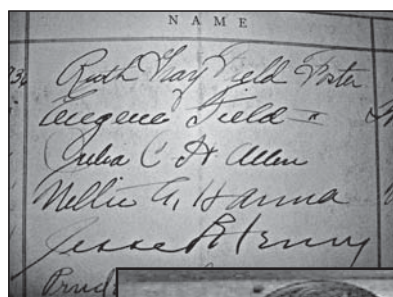
~ March 2 ~

"Top Secret:  
War Toys from our Past"  
opens

~ March 19 ~

Annual Museum Garage Sale

## Highlights Throughout the Museum During its 75th Year

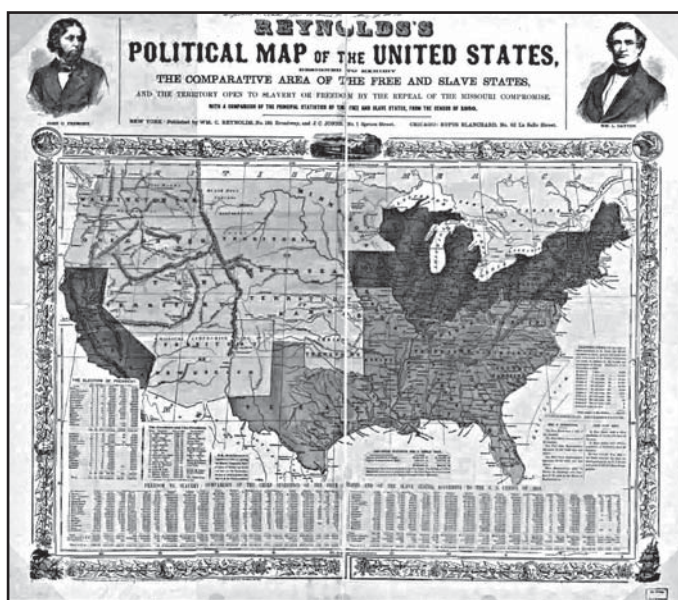


Along with the current exhibits, each room in the museum holds new and exciting things on display. Come visit and discover:

- The museum's oldest toy~ the snake in a box from the 1790s!
- Eugene's bank book, keys, and ink well
- Newly re-framed Maxfield Parrish prints
- Julia Field's calling card, feather hat, and perfume bottle
- The 1936 Guestbook!



Visit Us Online  
[www.eugenefieldhouse.org](http://www.eugenefieldhouse.org)



## Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in St. Louis

The Eugene Field House is extending its exhibit, “A Room Divided” in conjunction with the beginning of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. “A Room Divided” depicts life in St. Louis inside and outside of slavery prior to the Civil War. With recreation hands-on pieces and a one-of-a-kind dollhouse from 1837, “A Room Divided” is full of information of the unique situation that faced St. Louis prior to the Civil War: slave owners and anti-slavery sympathizers living side by side, a city that housed both slaves and free blacks; a modern city inside a slave state.



## Celebrate Poetry Month at the Field House!

April is Poetry Month and what better way to celebrate than visiting the home of the Children Poet? Share your favorite poems with other patrons, volunteers and staff. Is it *Wynken, Blynken, & Nod* or *The Sugar Plum Tree*; or one less well known, such as *Pittypat & Tippytoe* or *J'est For Christmas*?

Tours will include not only the house and current exhibits, but also poetry reading and weather permitting our Eugene Field Fantasy Poetry Garden will be open.

## New Staff at The Eugene Field House



Stephanie Baedke Bliss

The museum's most recent summer intern, Stephanie Baedke Bliss, has accepted a position as the museum's new Education & Volunteer Coordinator. Stephanie made a wonderful impression during her internship and now that she has finished her degree in Historic Preservation from Southeast Missouri State University; she is adding her knowledge and experience to the Eugene Field House team.

Nelda Floyd comes to the museum from the MERS Goodwill Senior Community Service Employment Program. This program, authorized by the Older Americans Act, is a community service and work based training program for older workers. Working part-time at the museum, Nelda will be assisting staff with collections, exhibits, and giving tours to the public.



Nelda Floyd



## 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.

*October 2010 – January 2011*

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Dr. & Mrs. John Wright  
Ms. Beth Yarus  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zork

### ~ *New Member* ~

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hesse

## HONORARIUMS, MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

*October 2010 – January 2011*

### *Individual Donations:*

Mrs. Elma Armistead  
Marianne and Peter Gleich  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zork

### *Year End Giving:*

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### *In Tribute of Mrs. Marianne Gleich*

Ms. Katherine Zotos

### *In Memory of Pierre Freudenreich*

Marianne and Peter Gleich

### *In Memory of Dr. Jai Nagarkatti*

Marianne and Peter Gleich

### *In Memory of Mr. Joseph Gleason*

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Walrond

### *In Memory of Ruth Finkenkiller*

Marianne and Peter Gleich

## Want to Help?

### Honorariums, Memorials & Donations

If you would like to honor someone or remember someone in a special way, consider sending a contribution to The Eugene Field House in their name. Simply mail us the information and we will send you an acknowledgment letter and the designated person a lovely card. Remember, your contribution is tax-deductible.



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Design & Layout: Graphic Masters

Printing: Minuteman Press of St. Louis



## From The Sugar Plum Tree Gift Shoppe

The museum's 3rd Floor Gift Shop is now The Sugar Plum Tree Gift Shoppe! Full of unique items celebrating the many facets of our National Historic Landmark museum: old-fashioned toys, wind-ups, primitives, poetry and antebellum items



Originally created by Jim Shore from wood, which was then cast as a model. Each figure is hand-painted stone resin. Each unique piece from Jim Shore includes his signature style of incorporating quilts, in memory of his grandmother, a master quilter. No longer being made, these Wynken, Blynken, & Nod figurines are wonderful representations of one of Eugene Field's most famous poems. Limited quantity, \$45 each.

